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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 83

TUESDAY APRIL 7, 2009

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OPINION METER

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Should the
government go
ahead with a
homestead
project in Marpi?

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INSIDE



Ban Ends

Media witnessed a ceremony for the arrival of an airman killed in Afghanistan, marking the end of an 18-year ban.

NATION...Page 14



Strong Quake

A powerful earthquake struck central Italy early Monday, killing at least 16 people.

WORLD...Page 16



ACM Awards

Carrie Underwood captured the entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

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CNMI's 2010 census budget up 31 percent. **PAGE 2**
Study: 58 percent of PSS students are healthy. **PAGE 4**

Marpi homestead project underway

By **KRISTI EATON**
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REPORTER

Motorists driving up to Suicide Cliff will notice a difference to Marpi as a hazardous material company removes unexploded ordnance on 62 hectares of land in preparation for the Marpi Point Village Homestead Development.

The development will support approximately 500 homesteads and related infrastructure.

Workers from Ampro are currently working to remove the unexploded ordnance for the future

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KRISTI EATON

A bulldozer clears vegetation in Marpi. Unexploded ordnance is being removed in preparation for the development of the Marpi Point Village Homestead Development.

Study: 15 percent of PSS students at risk for obesity

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Findings compiled by the Public School System for school year 2007-2008 show that 58 percent of children enrolled in public schools are in good health.

Jackie Quitugua, PSS associate commissioner for instructional services, said yesterday that based on the body mass index report, about 15 percent of students are at risk of be-

coming overweight.

The same findings showed that 20 percent of children enrolled in public schools are considered overweight, while 7 percent are deemed underweight.

PSS had over 11,000 students in school year 2007-2008, from kindergarten to 12th grade, in 20 public schools on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Quitugua said the BMI data were the

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US govt has 30 witnesses, while Villagomez lists 23

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has 30 witnesses, while Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez listed 23, including his brother, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

As this developed, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. procurement specialist Joseph Fejeran continued yesterday his testimony in the ongoing jury



Villagomez

trial of Lt. Gov. Villagomez, and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

According to the U.S. government's amended witness list filed in the U.S. District Court by assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley, the prosecution has 30 witnesses, many of them CUC employees.

Included on the U.S. government's list is former CUC executive director Antho-

See **US** on Page 4

Revival of Saipan's garment industry hinges on military market

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Neo Fashion Inc., a defunct garment factory in San Antonio, has started working to get the military into ordering specialty

garments manufactured on Saipan, a move which, if successful, can revive the once billion-dollar garment industry but on a smaller scale.

"It's not going to be as big as before but it will make specialty items. ...

There's no reason we can't make specialty items [for the military]," Neo Fashion consultant Paul Zak told *Saipan Tribune*.

Zak, however, said it's not easy to convince the U.S. military to look at Saipan's garment capabilities.

"I've been doing this for two years. Now we've got the samples in, now they're testing it...We're geared up... Once you get the order, everything else is easy," he said.

See **REVIVAL** on Page 4

Local

CNMI's 2010 census budget up 31 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's proposed budget for the 2010 census is approximately \$4.6 million, a 31 percent increase from roughly \$3.5 million for Census 2000, according to the Department of Commerce.

John Blanco, director of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that although the money has yet to arrive, preliminary planning has already begun between CSD and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The census is a count of ev-

eryone residing in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Census 2000 put the CNMI's population count at 69,221, from only 43,345 during Census 1990.

The first Census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

In the CNMI and elsewhere in the nation, Census 2010 day is set for April 1, 2010.

Blanco said Commerce is expected to hire the managerial team by Oct. 1, consisting of some 17 positions that include a local census office manager,

an assistant manager for field operations, a partnership/media specialist, an assistant manager for office operations and an assistant manager for administration.

"The bulk of the hires, though, which will number around 300 strong at its peak, will not occur until early in 2010," Blanco said.

When the Census 2010 team reaches full swing, it expects to have 242 field staff, consisting of enumerators, crew leaders, crew leader assistants and field operation supervisors hitting the field by April 1, 2010.

The 178 enumerators will begin training on March 22, 2010.

Blanco said that now more than ever, the CNMI is in need of current statistical data besides the federal government requirements that a census be conducted.

"Our own public and private sectors have been clamoring for more recent population data, given the tremendous turn of events we have witnessed since the last decennial census. Also, given that the CNMI was unable to conduct its own mid-decade census back in 2005 due mostly to budget constraints, this full census of the Northern Marianas is, for all intents and

purposes, long overdue and greatly welcomed," he said.

Census information helps local and federal leaders to make more informed decisions. Businesses rely on the data to gauge

the investment climate of the CNMI, or to decide whether the population of a village can support the opening of a business in their respective communities. Grant writers use census informa-

tion in their respective papers.

"This is just a few of the many reasons why the census is so important not only to our nation, but our islands as well," Blanco added.



ANOTHER WORK DAY IN PARADISE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man works on the bird cages in front of Saipan World Resort, a member of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. HANMI said hotels may be forced to lay off employees, cut benefits, or reduce work hours as a result of another 50-cent increase in minimum wage in May, which will also result in almost \$1.7 million in additional hotel payroll costs annually.

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Woman in fake money case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of three persons indicted in federal court for passing fake bills to some stores on Saipan pleaded guilty yesterday.

Kisha Lyn Masga King pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to utter counterfeit obligations and securities, and three counts of passing counterfeit obligations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted King's guilty plea and set the sentencing for July 14, 2009 at 9am.

King and counsel, Loren Sutton, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto appeared in court yesterday for the U.S.

government.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 12, 2009, King made a purchase at Tapo Fashion with a \$50 bill that she knew to be counterfeit, in connivance with Nestor Taitano.

The understanding was that Taitano would give King the fake \$50 and she would keep the item she purchased and return the change from the purchase to Taitano.

That same day, King made a purchase at Fashion Avenue with a fake \$50 bill, under the same arrangement with Taitano. King also bought gasoline at Koblerville Shell Station using a fake \$50 bill.

Last February, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the assistance of local police, busted

King, Taitano, and Lucas Taitano Manglona for circulating fake money.

Benedetto said the object of the conspiracy was to obtain merchandise and genuine U.S. currency as change from the transactions.

Police first discovered the passing of fake money on the island after Taitano and Manglona had a fight at their compound in San Vicente last January.

Responding police officers arrested Manglona after he admitted purchasing a pack of cigarettes and a lighter at Nang Ocha Store knowing that his \$50 was fake.

Manglona claimed that his brother has been dealing in illegal drugs and had knowledge of stolen property.

Poker arcade in CK robbed—again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa that was robbed two years ago was robbed again on Friday.

No one was reported hurt in the robbery.

The suspect, described as male who covered the bottom part of his face with a piece of cloth, reportedly managed to run off with a still undetermined amount of cash from Smile Poker.

According to Department of

Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro yesterday, the suspect was armed with a blunt object and was described as wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and a baseball cap.

Ogumoro said that on Friday at 5:18am DPS received a report about an armed robbery at Smile Poker.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that the armed suspect, wearing a cloth to conceal his face, first entered the establishment and instructed the security guard to

go to the counter.

The suspect then demanded money from the cashier, who handed over an undetermined amount of money.

"This case is under further investigation," Ogumoro said.

In April 2007, a security guard was injured when three men staged an armed robbery at the same establishment.

Police later arrested four suspects: Fernando Quitano, Christopher Lee Muna, Joseph San Nicolas alias Jun Dagui, and Martin P. Cepeda.

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Telesource says it incurred \$1M-plus deficit in '08

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Independent power producer Telesource CNMI Inc. said its audited 2008 financial state-

ment shows a revenue loss of more than \$1 million and projects a loss of \$1.3 million

for 2009.

Telesource, which operates the power plant on Tinian, said the existing contract with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. does not provide the company with incentive to invest any more funds into the island of Tinian, according to a statement from the company.

When Telesource signed the contract with CUC 12 years ago, it was required to invest tens of million of dollars into the future of the island, including upgrading Tinian's entire power distribution system.

"Telesource has lived up to its commitment," the statement said. "In return, the parties expected Telesource to have a reasonable opportunity to receive a modest profit. However, this has never occurred and the result has been unconscionable."

Individuals from both sides who are no longer with the companies signed the contract, Telesource noted.

During the last four years, new management at Telesource has directed more than \$7.5 million dollars in addition to the

more than \$42 million the company already invested on Tinian, they said.

"These are invested dollars that, under our current contract with CUC will never yield a return," the statement added.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna was off island yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the Public Utilities Commission must also take note of Telesource's concerns. PUC sets the rates for the utility agency.



ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Brooke Nevitt of the Coral Resource Management Office gives students of Joshua Generation International Academy a brief presentation during DEQ's Environmental Expo on March 31, 2009, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe. The event kicked off Environmental Awareness Month activities in April.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sobolewski set to end term as NMC faculty senate president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Frank Sobolewski's successor as Northern Marianas College faculty senate president will be named as soon as the new set of officers elects its leaders.

Sobolewski's term is set to expire after the Spring semester.

In a report to the NMC board last Monday, Sobolewski said the newly elected faculty senators will take office at the final faculty senate meeting for the spring term, which is on May 19.

Several individuals were named faculty senators during elections held January and February.

Sobolewski, who may serve as faculty senate president for only two semesters, was elected anew as senator representative for the Division of Instruction, while Marian Tudela was named representative of the Division of Student Services. Cynthia Deleon Guerrero was elected representative of the School of Education.

One faculty senator will be named soon to represent the Di-

vision of Community Programs and Services.

Five members were voted as at-large faculty senators: Larry Lee, Lyte Chapap, Barbara Merfalen, Joan Dubrall, and Judy Torres.

In accordance with the shared governance procedures in the NMC Institutional Excellence Guide that was adopted by NMC in December 2008, six instructors were appointed by the faculty senate on the College Council; three instructors on the Budget and Finance Committee; and six instructors appointed on the Planning, Program, Review, and Outcomes Assessment Committee.

Sobolewski, who has been with the college since 1995, told *Saipan Tribune* that the proposal to have indefinite contracts for faculty members will depend on his successor.

Though the idea has been killed several times in the past, Sobolewski believes that the move will boost the morale of instructors as they are provided job security.

An indefinite contract will set no expiration date but will in-

clude provisions that faculty can be terminated with cause based on evidence.

At present, he said, the existing two-year contracts at the college creates fear among instructors because they may lose their job, with or without cause.

Under an indefinite contract, Sobolewski said, it will not take away the right and power of the NMC president to let go of undeserving faculty members, provided there is evidence based on performance evaluation.

The faculty senate is the official representative body and legislative body of the faculty assembly of NMC. It acts on behalf of the faculty members and it is accountable for its action.

The body performs, initiates, develops, and review policies on academic and administrative matters of NMC. It also provides advisory comment on proposed Board of Regents' policies and participates in maintaining the integrity of the academic processes of NMC. Its faculty senate president serves as a non-voting honorary member of the Board of Regents.

IN TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES

'Abbreviated contracts not out of ordinary

In light of the economic situation, shorter contracts for government employees are not out of the question, says press secretary Charles Reyes.

Contracts are normally for a year at a time but 90-day contracts have been going on for several months. In fact, Reyes said, the administration was forced to negotiate some contracts for six months because of the difficult financial situation in the CNMI.

"Everyone knows the serious financial situation in the government. Everyone has known this from the start," the press secretary said.

The CNMI is poised to soon receive \$43 million in funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The majority of the stabilization money will go to the Public School System. But 18 percent, or \$8 million—available at the

governor's discretion—will go toward funding government salaries, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos said last week. The earmarked funds should be available in 30 to 45 days.

This is one more reason for shorter contracts to be negotiated, Reyes said.

While the government is confident they will receive the stimulus funds, Reyes said there is never any guarantee. (Kristi Eaton)

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STUDY

From Page 1

first collected by PSS and would serve as its baseline for future health studies.

The associate commissioner said the vigilant action of the system's nutritionist was a big factor in recording progress on the health status of the students.

PSS, she said, has been following the 2005 dietary guidelines, as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is complying with the food guide permit issued by the Community Guidance Center.

"We're not reducing and changing [any of these guidelines]," she said.

For the 58 percent healthy students, Quitugua said, PSS continuous to encourage them to stay physically healthy and active while those in the other classifications are being offered assistance

by the system.

Quitugua said PSS has been successful in seeing progress in the health of kids through its Project Familia and the board's Wellness Policy Program.

These successes are also attributed to the active involvement of parents at all grade levels.

She confirmed that one major factor that impacts the health of children is the family's lifestyle. Parents who are knowledgeable of children's health issues tend to give more proper guidelines to them, she added.

"We need to work closely with the parents of our at-risk kids...because it starts with the family and their lifestyle," she said.

Under the Board of Education's Wellness and Policy Program, a daily 60-minute physical fitness program must be enforced at all grade levels.

Quitugua admitted that, although they

wish to give more time to this health activity, PSS needs to balance that with the mandated instructional time for kids.

In the latter part of 2008, PSS suspended the operation of all school cantinas to make sure that what they are selling are nutritious foods and in accordance with the nutritionist's guidelines. PSS lifted the suspension early this year after fine-tuning its agreement with cantinas and ensuring that all health safety requirements are met.

Quitugua said a kid's health status impacts his/her productivity both at home and school.

"There is a strong connection between health education and academic achievements. The health status is very fundamental, especially for our kids," she said.

PSS is now working with some lawmakers on how they can help achieve a safe and health-friendly environment for CNMI kids, she said.

REVIVAL

From Page 1

Saipan's garment industry peaked at over \$1 billion in annual sales from 1998 to 2000. The government's annual user fee collection from garments also peaked at close to \$40 million during those years.

But since March, the government has not collected a single penny from the garment industry, which produced clothing for global brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Gap, Levi's, Abercrombie and Fitch, Polo Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and Liz Claiborne.

Monthly user fee collection from the garment industry reached over \$3 million during its peak years. The last time the government collected user fee was in February with only \$746.13.

Prior to that, the government collect-

ed \$115,796.11 in January; \$97,899.22 in December; \$164,419.07 in November; and \$97,932.80 in October, government data obtained by *Saipan Tribune* shows.

In March, there was zero collection as the last of the factories ceased operations a month earlier.

Neo Fashion Inc. ceased garment manufacturing in January 2008, but the entity still exists as a corporation, said Zak.

He said Neo Fashion still has the equipment to help revive its operations, as well as former garment workers who are on island.

"They can come in and these people are IRs. There are people who are working on other jobs right now but would come back [if called upon] because they're sewers; they have the experience...the initial [operation] will never be as big as it was but it may be

See REVIVAL on Page 7

MARPI

From Page 1

homestead development, which according to Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, is years away from happening.

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2006 awarded DPL a \$350,000 Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup agreement to assess and remove the ordnance in order to develop the Marpi Point Village, according to a June 2008 biological impact assessment completed in preparation for the village project.

Del Rosario said the homestead project was part of the residential development master plan completed years ago. He said personally he would like to see the area remain untouched.

"It's a wonderful drive for both our people and visitors alike. You know you don't want to disturb that," he added.

According to a letter from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to EPA, infrastructure for the homesteads will be installed approximately two to three years after the ordnance removal process.

Realistically, Del Rosario said, it's going to take years to see any sort of homestead because the area lacks infrastructure.

"You've got to make sure you have in place the following: water, power,

sewer and roads, in the community itself. It takes a lot of money to do that," Del Rosario said.

But money is something that DPL does not currently have, he added. It cost \$6 million in Koblerville alone, where a homestead project is currently underway, to build the necessary infrastructure. And, the secretary said, Public Lands must compete with essentials services like Public Health, Public Safety and the Public School System for any CIP money.

"It's going to take years to get the money together. It's not very realistic," he said.

Homestead or no homestead, Del Rosario said the unexploded ordnance need to be removed.

"Whether we keep it as a visitor site and maintain its pristine nature, the assessment and cleanup must go on, for the safety of both residents and tourists alike," he said.

The biological impact assessment completed in preparation for the homestead project stated:

"The removal of Hazardous Materials from the area by the DPL will improve public safety and render the property useable for other purposes. One potential use that DPL is considering for this site is developing the area as a homestead area for landless indigenous persons of Northern Mariana descent."

EPA does not fund the homestead proj-

ect and it is a DPL action, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service letter.

"[H]owever, the homesteads can only be built on the project site if the [unexploded ordnance] is removed. We consider the grading and development of the project site into homesteads interrelated to the proposed project and have evaluated homestead development under interrelated effects," the letter said.

Two projects in Koblerville and Capital Hill will provide 1,200 homesteads. There are about 4,000 homestead applicants on Saipan who are waiting for their lot assignments.

Habitat affected

There are four threatened species that could be affected by the project: the Mariana fruit bat, Mariana swiftlet, Micronesia megapode and Nightingale reed-warbler. The reed-warbler will more than likely see the most impact by the ordnance removal, according to a letter from the U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to EPA.

During recent assessments, four reed-warbler pairs were found with active nests within the area. At least one, and possibly two, additional singing males were also detected on at least one occasion. The proposed project will remove approximately 58 hectares of the habitats, thereby permanently destroying four nightingale reed-warbler territories and rendering the parcel un-

suitable for future breeding, feeding, or for shelter.

"Therefore, we concur that the proposed project will adversely affect the nightingale reed-warbler," the letter stated.

However, the removal and homestead project is not likely to jeopardize the survival of the reed-warbler because the percentage affected is very small, Fish and Wildlife concluded.

Large decorative or ornamental trees, such as the flame tree, will be retained; otherwise all vegetation will be removed in order to identify the ordnance, which will be removed using a shovel.

DPL, according to the letter, is undertaking conservation efforts. The department removed a portion of the project site in order to avoid impacts to the megapode, for example.

JD Robinson, an associate at Ampro, said all indigenous trees will be saved and four acres will be used for a historic preservation office. An area with a trail and plague will also be a part of the area.

Ampro will be working on the area for about nine months.

DPL will oversee the development of homesteads, including the building of infrastructure such as roads, utilities and schools. As much as possible, DPL will try to reduce the impact to the reed-warbler and megapode, the Fish and Wildlife letter stated. Ninety days

before the homestead development, DPL is to provide the Fish and Wildlife Service with a development plan, detailing the location of homestead sites, schools, roads, utilities and any other related building or infrastructure.

History

The U.S. military utilized the area immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II. It was used to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland. In the 1950s, the U.S. Army attempted to dispose of the munitions by blowing them up in place, but it was only partly successful, leaving the area with unexploded ordnance, according to the biological assessment of the area.

In the 1960s, a cleanup operation was undertaken and 4,000 tons of hazardous materials were collected and disposed of. Conservative estimates say less than half the ordnance present was removed. Present ordnance includes projectiles, hand grenades and mortar rounds.

Robinson said the issue of unexploded ordnance is a problem all over Saipan.

"It's a good thing for the island, absolutely," he said of the cleanup.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has yet to take a position on the issue.

The Marpi area is a major tourist attraction for foreign tourists with its storied past.

US

From Page 1

ny C. Guerrero and William J. Powell of Rydlyme Pacific Inc. in Hawaii.

Guerrero has been charged for his involvement in the alleged conspiracy. He has already pleaded guilty to the charges of wire fraud, conspiracy, and theft of federal funds.

Attorney David J. Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, listed 23 persons on their witness list, also mostly CUC employees, as well as Public Health Secretary Villagomez and Powell.

Lujan reserved the right to call any other witnesses they may deem necessary.

During the continuation of his testimony yesterday, Fejeran said he had wondered why the Saipan power plant asked for more Rydlyme when there's more in the power plant's warehouse.

Fejeran also stated that he was not aware of any request from Rota and Tinian for the supply of Rydlyme.

Last Friday, during direct examina-

tion by O'Malley, Fejeran said he first encountered Rydlyme in 1998 when he received a requisition voucher from the CUC power plant on Saipan.

At the continuation of his testimony yesterday, Fejeran identified a document shown him by the prosecution as a July 13, 1998, letter prepared by James Santos, owner of ISLA Sales Micronesia.

Fejeran said the letter basically thanked CUC for giving his company an opportunity to provide quotations for Rydlyme. The witness said Santos provided Rydlyme's quotations price at \$35 per gallon for 1,130 gallons, for a total of \$38,500.

Fejeran also identified Villagomez's signature in the CUC checks that paid ISLA Sales for the purchases of Rydlyme.

Fejeran identified a document shown him as another requisition form from the power plant to purchase 2,000 more gallons of Rydlyme.

Shown another document, Fejeran read a note that the order for Rydlyme was done per Gary Camacho's instructions for the material, for the use of

Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Fejeran said the request should have come from the end user and that Camacho was not the end user because, at the time, Camacho was with CUC's Procurement and Supply.

Fejeran said he didn't see any request to purchase Rydlyme from Rota and Tinian.

With respect to the fifth transaction for Rydlyme, the prosecution showed an internal requisition from the end user—the power plant.

Fejeran said he prepared the request for quotations from the vendors of Rydlyme and that only one responded, ISLA Sales. He said the quotation was for \$35 per gallon for 2,000 gallons, for a total of \$70,000.

Fejeran said he encountered Rydlyme again in the early part of 2007 after he received a requisition voucher from the power plant. He said when he first saw the requisition voucher, he talked to his boss, Manny Sablan, and informed the latter that there was a request for him to prepare the purchase order for Rydlyme.

He said he had asked Sablan why

there's another request to buy Rydlyme when there's still a lot of the chemical in the power plant. Fejeran said he knew about the stocks because he called the power plant.

Fejeran said he then learned that James Santos is Villagomez's brother-in-law because "the guys at CUC" were talking about their relationship. He said he was new at Procurement back then so he was not aware if there was a contract to purchase more Rydlyme.

During cross-examination, Lujan asked if Fejeran was involved in the 2007 transaction for Rydlyme. Fejeran replied no, except that the requisition voucher from power plant was forwarded to him.

Fejeran said Sablan asked him to get quotations even as Sablan also tried to solicit quotations.

The witness said he knew Sablan succeeded in getting the quotation because Sablan showed him the price quote from Blue Pacific.

Joaquina Santos reportedly owns Blue Pacific, which was awarded a \$120,000 sole-source emergency con-

tract for 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme.

With respect to the 2007 transaction, Fejeran said only one quotation came in—from Blue Pacific.

Lujan asked if he is aware that there was ultimately a contract prepared by legal counsel and former judge Edward Manibusan. Fejeran replied that Manibusan did not prepare the contract but only reviewed it. He said it was Charlene Tenorio who processed the contract.

Lujan asked if he has personal knowledge of any apparent agreement between Villagomez, James Santos, Joaquina Santos, Anthony Guerrero or anyone to commit a crime, to commit a wire fraud, or commit any offense against the U.S. government.

"I have no personal knowledge," Fejeran replied.

Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, asked if Fejeran's solicitation for quotations were enough to satisfy CUC's procurement regulations.

"Yes," answered Fejeran.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Torres was still cross-examining the witness.

Relocation temporarily halts nursing board operation

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners on Capital Hill has temporarily halted its

operation because it is in the process of relocating to the new Department of Public Health building in Garapan.

Bertha P. Camacho, chairperson of the nursing board, yesterday

said their office on Capital Hill is "so dilapidated and needs major renovation" at this point.

"It is not an option to continue staying at the current site because of hazard and health

issues... The board is currently relocating and the board may not resume regular and full operations until the second week of April," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

However, the relocation to the new DPH building adjacent to the Human Resources Department is also "temporary," citing the need for adequate space and personnel to

provide maximum service, including the processing of hundreds of applications monthly.

"Because the board is a regulatory agency, it really needs to function separate from any other organization or agency and not be a part of the hospital," Camacho added.

Nurses who need to get applications or other forms are asked to download the forms at www.nmicbne.com.

Not only is the board currently packing up things and moving them, but also currently does not have computer connection.

The nursing board is tasked with regulating nurses' professional accreditation and with giving them the approvals they need to work in hospitals elsewhere in the United States.

MBA, GCA students vie for state level Geography Bee

BY **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two students from the CNMI may get the chance to represent the entire Pacific territories at the National Geography Bee competition in Washington, D.C. scheduled next month.

The National Geography Society, which organizes the contest, set a simultaneous written test for 10 students from U.S. territories who got the highest scores in each territory's school level competitions. Students from the CNMI took the state level written test on Friday.

Eric Dickinson, from the Geographic Society, earlier informed all Pacific territories' schools that three students from the CNMI, six from American Samoa, and one from Guam qualified to take the written state level test.

Qualifiers from the CNMI included Marianas Baptist Academy's Suk Koo Kim, Grace Christian Academy's Angela F. Mamaril, and Chacha Oceanview Junior High's Zaliha A. Joyner, who was not able to take the actual state level exam last

Friday at the PSS central office.

"It was a one-hour test and will determine which student from the Pacific territories will represent them at the national finals of the National Geography Bee in D.C. in May," Dickinson told CNMI principals.

The result of the state level exam is due for release end of this month.

Saipan Tribune learned that MBA has been holding the state geography titles and has represented the CNMI at the nationals since 1989, the inception of the national program.

MBA principal Ramir Trinidad said the National Geography Bee competition was conducted on the island the same way as other competitions like Mathcounts, forensic leagues, and others.

It was in 1996 when the national organizer decided to have only one representative from Pacific territories.

MBA students who were sent to the national geography bee included Jose Marie Villagomez, 1989-1990; Hitomi Saso, 1991-1992; and Paul Murphy in 1994.

Trinidad has been designated

the national coach for the CNMI delegates for four years.

This year, the principal hopes that MBA's Suk Koo Kim would be successful in getting the seat for the national contest.

"I wish he'll be able to make it. He worked hard. He was truly challenged by this competition and we're optimistic," Trinidad told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The National Geography Bee is a competition designed for

fourth to eight graders.

It has three stages, beginning at the school level. Schools that register for the Bee receive materials to hold their competitions. Each school winner takes a written test, and the top scorers in each state and territory compete at the state level.

The winner of each state Bee proceeds to the national competition.

The 55 state and territory

Kaipat notes large increase in denial of applications to hire alien workers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat has noted a large increase in the number of applications filed by employers to hire alien workers that were eventually denied by Labor.

Kaipat said appeals of these denials have been filed in 627 cases from June 2008 through March 2009.

"All of these appeals have been processed efficiently by the [Labor] Hearing Office, in addition to its normal caseload of labor complaints," said Kaipat in her interim progress report submitted Wednesday last week to the Legislature on the implementation of the Public Law 15-108. She was the author of the controversial labor reform law when she was a representative.

The deputy secretary, however, did not cite figures in her report to support her claim of a "large" increase in Labor denials.

Kaipat said Labor director Barry Hirshbein has subjected applications to employ alien workers to tighter scrutiny, using Labor's new automated process.

She said the careful scrutiny has been done to weed out em-

ployers who are insolvent, who lack the necessary resources to pay their foreign workers, who may not be providing a real job, or who are otherwise unqualified.

The deputy secretary claimed that Hirshbein's disqualification has been upheld in many cases, and the employers have been denied permission to employ foreign workers.

Kaipat listed three "beneficial effects" of such scrutiny.

First, she said, the number of unfit employers has been reduced very substantially, resulting in fewer labor complaints from foreign workers about not being paid.

Second, Kaipat said, the number of employment scams set up solely for the purpose of allowing foreign workers to remain in the CNMI while unemployed has been reduced, resulting in fewer law enforcement problems.

Finally, she pointed out, the number of U.S. citizens hired has increased because a business can hire a U.S. citizen without any scrutiny of its finances by Labor.

In the same report, Kaipat disclosed that in the last three years, Labor processed and completed the repatriation of over 16,000 alien workers.



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Reintegration program for displaced Filipino workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine labor attaché Joann Lourdes Lavilla is encouraging Filipino workers in the CNMI who are returning to the Philippines for good to avail of free services and assistance programs through the National Reintegration Center for overseas Filipino workers.

Many Filipino workers in the CNMI have been displaced due to a bad economy that resulted in the closure of businesses and reduction in force.

The reintegration programs include business counseling, training, and job placement in the country or abroad.

"This is to inform workers in the CNMI who have decided to go home for good that there's a package of assistance given by the Department of Labor and Employment through NRCO. All you need to do is visit our office and fill up a form," Lavilla said.

The filled up form will be faxed to the National Reintegration Center for OFWs in time for the return of OFWs.

Forms can also be downloaded from the website, www.nrco.dole.gov.ph.

dole.gov.ph.

Under NRCO's One-Stop Center, agencies have made available a package of assistance and services for the benefit of OFWs.

Together with the NRCO, DOLE and non-DOLE agencies of the government are also providing the necessary interventions to alleviate the plight of displaced OFWs.

These include:

- DOLE'S Bureau of Local Employment, a referral service for local employment;

- Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, legal assistance for those displaced OFWs with money claims and referral services for overseas employment;

- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, for scholarship training, retooling, and skills upgrading;

- Technology Resource Center, a business counseling and training to start a livelihood project;

- Social Security System-OFW Family Club Cards for pertinent services and benefits; and,

- PhilHealth, a family health card for a one-year free health insurance.

NMC hires 5 new instructors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has approved the hiring of five new instructors for the fall semester.

From the 14 vacant instructional posts, only nine are left unfilled, according to

the institution's senate faculty president, Frank Sobolewski.

The 14 positions became vacant due to faculty resignations or retirements. Sobolewski said some of these vacated positions have been advertised in job announcements and some have not yet been posted.

Saipan Tribune learned Fri-

day that the five instructors are set to begin work at NMC on Aug. 3, 2009. These include one position at the Math Department and Social Science Department, two instructors for the English Department, and a psychology instructor.

Sobolewski confirmed that these five applicants were se-

lected and approved by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez from a pool of candidates.

Nine more instructors that will be hired will be assigned to health and physical education, health sciences, counselor for disability services, computer applications, business/accounting, two positions for elementary education, and two department chairs each for Nursing and Business.

It will be recalled that Nursing Department chair Lynne Curtis and Business Department head Eric Plinske retired last year.

Based on enrollment figures for the spring semester, NMC currently has 33 instructional staff attending to over 800 students.

Sobolewski disclosed in an earlier interview that many faculty members are overloaded due to lack of instructors. This means handling more than the required 15 credit units.

The college's practice of issuing two-year contracts to faculty members has also been raised anew by the group, citing the lack of security in their jobs due to a provision stating that their contracts may or may not be renewed, with or without reason.

The college instructors want an indefinite contract that sets no expiration, and that they could only be terminated with cause.



BOOK SALE

Two men browse through the shelves of used books for sale in front of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe on Saturday. The non-profit group Library Friends held the book sale to raise funds to buy gasoline for the book mobile which has now been regularly serving Kagman and Koblerville.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC-CDI offers Framingham master's degree program

The Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, is inviting individuals interested in advancing their education to consider the master's degree in Education Program from Framingham State College. The next cohort is slated to begin in the fall. Applications can be picked up from the CDI offices starting April 7, 2009.

To pick up brochures or application forms or for more infor-

mation, contact Carol Hosono at 234-5498 ext. 1253, e-mail carolynh@nmnet.edu, or visit the CDI offices at Building P at the College's As Terlaje campus. (NMC)

PAWS sets public meeting

PAWS is having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care on April 30. The meeting is open to the public. All those interested in volunteering for PAWS and saving the non-profit organization are encouraged to attend the meeting. RSVP to Bobbi Grizzard no later than April 29 at bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464. Alternatively, you may contact 285-PAWS. (PR)

'John Gonzales Live' April schedule

April 8, 2009 LIVE – Replays April 12 and April 13 at 7-8pm
 ■ Highlighting youth leadership in PSS Youth Advisory Panel
 ■ Rota High School Youth Leaders and PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan
 April 22, 2009 LIVE at 7-8 pm – Replays April 26 and April 27 at 7-8pm
 ■ Parents and service providers discuss autism awareness in the CNMI
 April 29, 2009 LIVE – Replays May 3 and May 4 at 7-8pm
 ■ Current issues with the Family Court
 ■ Judge Kenneth Govendo and Family Court Administrator Patrick V. Diaz
 All shows air on KSPN Channel 2. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; Email: johngonzales@pticom.com. (PR)

KagES April calendar of events

April 8	PTA meeting at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria
April 9-13	Students/Teachers Easter Break
April 14	Students/Teachers return to classes
April 17	Early Dismissal for all students at noon
April 17	Quarter Report Cards Distribution at 1:30pm-4:30pm
April 27 to May 1	SAT 10 Assessment for 3 rd and 5 th grade students

BPL moves to new office

The Board of Professional Licensing has moved its office to a new site located on Pohnpei Ct., Bldg. 1242, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. The contact numbers are 664-4808/9 and the new fax number is 664-4814. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DLNR/DFW-065

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 23, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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OUTBOARD TO INCLUDE REMOVAL OF OLD ENGINE
FOR THE DLNR - DIV. OF FISH & WILDLIFE-
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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ D.V.M.
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezoning)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map #20 - San Jose (Oleai) village. A public hearing will be held:

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009
 Time: 5:30 pm
 Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
 Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

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Continental to fly Narita-Saipan charters in summer

Airline to also launch daily Kansai-Guam flights

HAGATÑA, Guam—Continental Micronesia said yesterday that its flight schedule for the 2009 summer peak will include double-daily scheduled charter flights from Narita to Saipan and one daily scheduled charter from Kansai International Airport to Guam.

The scheduled charters will operate for a limited time and will add a total of 190 flights and 29,450 seats to the summer schedule.

The Narita-Saipan flights will operate from July 18

through Sept. 23, while the Kansai-Guam flights will operate daily from Aug. 1 through Sept. 23. Both routes will use a Boeing 737-800 with 14 business class seats and 141 economy class seats.

Flight schedule details are as follows:

NARITA-Saipan (daily flights)

July 18 through Sept. 23

■ Flight CO941: Dep. Saipan 5:30 Arr. Narita 8:05

■ Flight CO942: Dep. Narita

9:25 Arr. Saipan 13:55

■ Flight CO943: Dep. Saipan 16:15 Arr. Narita 18:50

■ Flight CO944: Dep. Narita 21:00 Arr. Saipan 1:30 (Following day)

KANSAI-GUAM (daily flights)

Aug. 1 through Sept. 23

■ Flight CO977: Dep. Guam 7:10 Arr. Kansai 9:55

■ Flight CO978: Dep. Kansai 11:00 Arr. Guam 15:30

“We decided to operate these

scheduled charter flights between Narita and Saipan and Kansai and Guam during the summer travel peak in response to requests from our travel partners,” said Charles Duncan, managing director of Asia/Pacific for Continental Airlines. “We are excited to provide our customers in Japan with more convenient access to Saipan and Guam this summer, when demand is strongest. In spite of the challenging economic environment, Continental has been growing in the Asia Pacific region. On March 26 we launched a new route link-

ing Shanghai and New York and we doubled our service between Guam and Cairns, Australia for the 2009 summer season. And we will continue to look for more opportunities that are commercially viable.”

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, go to continental.com. (*Continental*)

Rota students walk for a cause

As part of the National DARE Day celebration, the students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's Drug Abuse Resistance Education, DARE, program and Get Up and Try Something, GUTS,

program held a walkathon activity on the island of Rota.

The concept was designed to empower children by offering them a chance to stay healthy and raise funds for a good cause

while doing what they do best... staying healthy and doing something positive for a change.

The walkathon, organized by the Pacific Regional Training Institute, had the students walking

from Tatachong Pavilion to Pinatang Beach Park in Songsong Village. The organizer hopes to make it an annual event on Rota in April to celebrate National DARE Day.

The organizer and ESFDB DARE/GUTS Student Body Association extend its appreciation to all the parents, friends, donors, Barrigada Vice Mayor June U. Blas (Guam), the Guam Fire Department, Paul and Kendra Tanaka (Hawaii), Jeffrey Sai (Hawaii), Honolulu Federal Credit Union (Hawaii), Bay Breeze Restaurant, and the Rota community for the support given to the students.

“To everyone who participated and helped in any way, a big thank you and God bless!” said the organizers. (*PR*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB students pose for a picture after their DARE/GUTS Walk A Mile In My Shoes walkathon activity. From left, Rhea Cotaes, DARE/GUTS student rep. Maricel Atalig, ESFDB DARE student body president Van Cing, DARE/GUTS student rep. Randee Jo Barcinas, and ESFDB DARE student body treasurer Angelique Perez. Not in photo, PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita Jr.

REVIVAL

From Page 4

a factory of 100 people,” Zak added.

He said there's “absolutely” a chance for Saipan's garment industry to be revived once it's able to tap the military market. Puerto Rico, for example, exports almost \$200 million in military garments to the United States.

“We export zero. Something's wrong with that. We made garment for 25 years here. It's not being able to make it but they don't even know we exist,” he said.

Even without the military buildup on Guam as a result of the relocation of the Marines from Okinawa, Zak said Saipan can market itself as a supplier of quality garment products to the military just like it did for major U.S. retailers for years. Guam is less than an hour away from Saipan by commercial plane.

“Once you get a military contract, it ships from anywhere... whether it's T-shirts or under-

wear, or backpacks, we should be going after that but what I found out is that it's not that easy,” he said.

The consultant said he had gone to meetings where he was told Saipan is not qualified to become a supplier of garments to the U.S. military, and he had to show them regulations and PowerPoint presentations to tell them about the island's once mighty garment industry.

Saipan garment factories started closing one after the other in January 2005 when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade expired, eliminating quotas on textile exports to the United States. The GATT had regulated all global trade in textiles and apparel since 1974.

From having 34 garment factories producing “Made in the USA” clothing, Saipan now only has dilapidated buildings that once housed garment factories from San Antonio to San Vicente, Lower Base and Tanapag.

Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs,

said 10 years ago, the CNMI collected nearly \$40 million in annual user's fee, and another \$40 million in related economic contributions, which are now just part of CNMI history.

“Like presidential candidate Ross Perot's colorful phrase referring to the loss of jobs and revenue to Mexico due to the proliferation of NAFTA in 1992, the ‘giant sucking sound’ we've heard for four years now in the CNMI are the jobs and money exiting to China, India and Malaysia due to WTO, and other economic factors,” Pierce told *Saipan Tribune*.

“And, since 1995, we knew WTO would be our version of NAFTA with CNMI jobs and our economy unless we did something. We tried,” he added.

There were some 25,000 jobs in the CNMI working on factories, service companies, and government as a result of the garment industry. Most garment workers employed by the industry were from China, the Philippines and Thailand, and most of them have already gone back home.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda, for the above-referenced meeting:

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (February 19, 2009)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Allegiance Capital's Interest in the Seaplane Ramps

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

April 6, 2009



GSA Public Buildings Service

U.S. GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 17,940 RENTABLE SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE IN SAIPAN

REQUIREMENT:

The United States Government is seeking to lease office and related space consisting of approximately 17,940 rentable square feet along with 19 surface parking spaces for the use by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Saipan.

Regularly scheduled public transportation and/or employee parking within 3 blocks sufficient to cover commuting and visitor needs should be available.

Space should be located with a variety of inexpensive moderately priced fast food and/or eat-in restaurants within one mile, and other amenities such as retail shops, cleaners, banks, etc. should be available within one mile.

The space must yield a minimum of 15,600 ANSI/BOMA (“Useable”) square feet to a maximum of 16,380 ANSI/BOMA square feet of contiguous space. The anticipated term is 10 years, 5 years firm as a fully serviced lease. The estimated occupancy date is December 1, 2010. The Government requires 19 surface parking spaces at no cost, or at reasonable commercial rates.

The building must be located in a professional surrounding and/or tasteful rehabilitation in current use. Streets and public sidewalks must be well maintained. The Government requires sufficient parking for privately owned vehicles and visitor parking. Buildings offered for consideration must be of sound and substantial construction of the type generally recognized as contemporary with the ability to demonstrate meeting all current Federal/GSA-PBS and local codes and regulations including but not limited to fire and life safety, free of asbestos, accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) compliant or, if not, landlord must be willing to make the building fully ABAAS compliant), OSHA, and seismic protection.

Build to suit buildings must meet a minimum 50 foot setback. The property should not have any easements or right of way encumbering the property that break up the buildable area; portions subject to an easement or right of way will not be counted in the buildable area.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Expressions of interest must be submitted in writing and should include the following information at minimum:

- Building name/address
- Location of space in the building and date it will be available
- Drawing of space offered
- Rentable Square Feet (RSF) offered
- Common Area Factor used to determine the RSF

Name, address, telephone number, and email address of authorized contact

AUTHORIZED CONTACTS:

In no event shall a potential offeror enter into negotiations or discussions concerning a space to be leased with representatives of any Federal agency other than the authorized officers and employees of the General Services Administration (GSA).

Forward pertinent and complete information by e-mail, facsimile, or mail to the address below by COB April 15, 2009.

Jennifer Celeste
Real Estate Division
General Services Administration,
San Diego Real Estate
401 West 'A' Street, Suite 2075
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone 619-557-5466
Fax 619-557-5018

NMC aids farmers obtain 59K in grants



CNMI farmers and ranchers were recently awarded \$59K for sustainable agricultural projects. The grantees are pictured here with members of the Northern Marianas College CREES staff.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program recently awarded 21 farmer/rancher grants totaling \$325,000. From this total, five CNMI ranchers and farmers will get \$59,090 for various projects aimed at sustaining agricultural profitability and promoting environmental stewardship.

Pedro Ariola will demonstrate the feasibility of solar energy in sustainable aquaculture to address high costs in conventionally produced electricity. He was awarded \$10,469.

Carolyn Hosono aims to maximize aquaculture productivity with sequential polyculture systems with a grant of \$14,892.

Rick Atalig will get \$10,000 for sustainable deer production on Rota.

Joe Borja will receive \$14,729 for pineapple production.

Ben Borja was awarded \$9,000 to demonstrate an alternative poultry production system on Tinian.

EX-NMI residents donate prizes for islandwide cleanup

Two former residents of the CNMI have donated \$300 in prizes to be given out to participants of the upcoming islandwide cleanup.

Ron and Nancy Kramis of Bellingham, Washington decided to donate the prize money because they wanted to somehow participate in the event planned for April 17.

"We've been following Beautify CNMI since it was formed and when we lived in the CNMI we would volunteer. We are back in Washington now and we wanted to help out. Ron came up with this idea for us to participate," said Nancy Kramis who worked with the Public School System and Department of Public Health when she was

Free abalone workshop on Rota

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service is inviting community members in Rota to a free workshop titled "Grow-Out Requirements for Abalone Production."

Michael Ogo, NMC-CREES aquaculture program leader, will educate participants on how to grow abalone in their backyards. The free workshop will be held in Room B-2 of NMC's Tatchog Campus on Rota on Thursday, April 9, 2009 from 1pm to 4pm.

Abalone is an edible mollusk. It is a highly priced food

tem on Tinian.

Staff members from the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service

item in Southeast and East Asia, Latin America and New Zealand, and has been farmed since the 1950s in Japan and China. However, farm stocks in China have been adversely affected by disease. Ogo be-

lieves that this is a good time for CNMI residents to look at conducting their own local production of abalone. He added that abalone are easy to grow, and that there is large demand locally and worldwide.

To learn more about this workshop, or any other NMC-CREES program, contact 234-5498 ext. 1707. (PR)

helped the grantees with writing their grant proposal, and they will also assist them with their projects as technical advisers.

During a recent meeting, Dr.

living in the CNMI.

"Whoever wins the prizes can spend the money anyway they like, but when I came up with the idea I thought that the prizes could be used to purchase school supplies or more cleanup supplies. Maybe if some students win they could have a pizza party to celebrate their hard work," added Ron Kramis.

Event organizers have decided to use the prize money to give out three \$100 prizes. The first prize will be \$100 cash given to one of the participating groups at random. Every volun-

teer group, business, or school that participates will have their names put into a hat and one of them will be the lucky winner of \$100.

The other two prizes require the coordinators of the volunteering organization to submit a photograph. The volunteer group that picks up the most garbage, as evidenced by a photograph of trash collected on the day of the cleanup will win \$100. Likewise, the volunteer group that recruits the most volunteers, as evidenced by a group photograph on the day of the cleanup

Allan Sabaldica, NMC-CREES WSARE grant coordinator, congratulated the recipients of the competitive grants. He said all farmers and ranchers "can apply for these grants if they have an idea of how to implement sustainable methods in their production."

Western SARE awards grants every year not only to farmers and ranchers, but also to professionals and producers for research and education, professional development, as well as grants for postgraduate students in sustainable agriculture.

Grant applications can be downloaded from <http://wsare.usu.edu/>. For more information about the different WSARE grants, contact Sabaldica at NMC-CREES Tinian office at 433-0639 or NMC-CREES Saipan office at 234-5498, ext. 1707. NMC-CREES staff members are available to assist in the application of these grants. (NMC)

will also win \$100.

"We are blessed to have such generous benefactors. These prizes are a nice way to reward all the hard work that volunteer groups have been doing for Beautify CNMI over the years. Ron and Nancy Kramis deserve a heartfelt *si yu'us ma'ase*," said event co-organizer Angelo Villagomez.

Division of Environmental Quality, Rotary Club of Saipan, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Marianas Tourism Education Council are the co-organizers of the islandwide cleanup.

For more information on the how to participate in the cleanup, contact Joe Kaipat at 664-8500 or Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462 or via e-mail at angelovillagomez@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 7, 2000

'Ex-CPA officials pad leave credits'

The previous administration of the Commonwealth Ports Authority are facing investigation by the Office of the Public Auditor for allegedly circumventing the NMI Retirement Fund Act to increase the retirement benefits of two former officials. A preliminary result of the OPA investigation disclosed that the previous CPA administration allowed the conversion of the officials' unused compensatory time hours to sick leave for use as additional years of credited service in the computation of their retirement allotment. The ports authority also paid the former officials' unused leave and salaries in advance to increase the average annual salaries used in the computation of their retirement apportionment, according to the public auditor's report.

Battle over Hillblom estate nears end

After almost five years of fierce legal battle, the qualified heir claimants and the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation have finally agreed to settle the remaining assets of the Hillblom estate, leading to the closure of the lengthy heirship case. Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro is expected to approve today what the parties called the Global Settlement Agreement amounting to over \$65 million which was a product of various meetings held in California, Hawaii and Guam. The agreement describes in detail how the assets, cash and non-cash, will be divided and provide payment for obligations of the estate. Once Judge Castro gives his seal of approval on the agreement, the money will be distributed on May 11, 2000.

April 7, 2003

Alert up vs products, passengers from SARS areas

The CNMI authorities are said to be on high alert not only for passengers, but also for products coming from areas with cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS. This comes even as the Pacific Daily News in Guam reported that a 9-year-old girl suspected of having contracted SARS continues to be evaluated and treated at her home where she and her family have been quarantined. The Sunday PDN report quoted Navy spokeswoman Lt. Thurraya Kent as saying that Navy medical officials are still trying to determine whether the girl, who is the daughter of a Navy sailor stationed on Guam, actually has the illness.

'CUC in the dark about OTEC'

Saying that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been "left in the dark," CUC board member Jack Borja has expressed dismay over the apparent lack of consultation on the proposed \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant on Saipan. "CUC has been left in the dark; I don't know why but I won't let it happen that CUC would still be in the dark," he said, citing a recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between a private company and the Executive Branch, to which, he said, the CUC was not made privy to. Borja was referring to the agreement signed with Maryland-based Sea Solar Power International for the construction of a \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant, a pilot project which is seen to generate approximately 10 megawatts of net electrical power and three million gallons of fresh water a day.

April 7, 2004

Group: CNMI to get AD status

The Northern Mariana Islands will receive its Approved Destination Status next week when Gov. Juan N. Babauta meets with China National Tourism Administration officials in Beijing. This comes amid a visit by Chinese travel agents, airline representatives, and China-based travel magazines who paid a courtesy visit to the governor to express their support to the CNMI's effort to lure more Chinese tourist to the Commonwealth. According to China Eastern Airlines travel manager Zhi Cheng, Saipan has been granted the Approved Destination Status and the governor would be in Beijing for the official signing of the agreement on April 16.

MVA gears up for China market

With the reported Chinese government's approval of the CNMI's application as an accredited tourist destination, the Commonwealth's tourism industry sees brighter months ahead-good news on top of the 15-percent growth in visitor arrivals posted in March. Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Jonas Ogren said yesterday that preparations have been going on in anticipation of China's approval to the CNMI's request for Approved Destination Status. Officially, though, he said he has yet to receive information if the application has actually been approved. "If and when we do get ADS, it's great news for Saipan, as well as Tinian and Rota," Ogren said. He said the MVA has already been working on the CNMI's marketing plan for the Chinese tourist market. Right now, he said the MVA is in the process of hiring public relations agencies in China to help market the islands to Chinese tourists. The target areas for the marketing campaign are Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

Island Snapshots



IT&E SPONSORS ARC WALKATHON

Jennifer White Aguon, IT&E marketing coordinator, and Veronica Acosta Taivero, IT&E wireless product coordinator, present a check for \$1,000 to the American Red Cross and \$1,000 worth of phone cards to executive director John Hirsh at the Red Cross Walkathon. “The Red Cross is grateful to IT&E for their generous support of this year’s event,” said Hirsh. These donations will enable the Chapter to continue its important mission of helping the community prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



RED CROSS BOARD

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter recently elected its board of directors-volunteer leadership. They are, seated, Arley Long, Mili Saiki, Viola Sablan, Lou Johnson, Teresa Kim, and Roxanne Ferrer. Standing, Clyde Norita, Jerry Facey, Joshua Sasamoto, Jocelyn DL Guerrero, Larry Lee, Pete Dela Cruz, and John D. Guerrero. Also pictured are staff members John Hirsh, JD Tenorio and Kennedy Benjamin. Not in picture are board members Juan Lizama, Chuck Sayon, and Rhoda Smith and staff Mary Ann Taman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OPA WORKSHOP

Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor Juan Pan Guerrero (foreground) and Joe Camacho (standing, background) and members of their campaign team review literature concerning the CNMI ethics code as legal counsel from the Office of the Public Auditor discusses the ethics code as it relates to political campaigns. The candidates invited OPA to make this presentation to them and campaign volunteers in order to ensure campaign compliance with applicable laws.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The legal counsel from the Office of the Public Auditor discusses campaign ethics with members of Juan Pan Guerrero and Joe Camacho's campaign team. The candidates for governor and lieutenant governor asked OPA to speak with them and campaign volunteers regarding the CNMI ethics code as it relates to campaigns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated birthday greetings go out to Derek C. Leung, who celebrated his birthday on April 6. Hope you had a great day! Greetings come from all your friends, family, and your entire Psychology class!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Chris Fryling, second from left, stresses a point about the development of an edu-tourism industry in the CNMI while others look on during a breakout session at the conclusion of the two-day 2009 Economic Restoration Summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Friday. In photo are, from left, Del Benson, Fryling, Steve Jang, Bruce Bateman, and Vicky Benavente.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BASIC NEWSWRITING SEMINAR

Saipan Tribune reporter Haidee V. Eugenio, second row, fourth from left, joins Filipino workers for a group photo after she conducted a free basic news writing seminar for non-writers who are interested in contributing articles to the newsletter of Bayani Association, which initiated the seminar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PALM SUNDAY BLESSING

People surround the priest during the blessing of palm leaves in Sunday's Palm Sunday Mass at Mt. Carmel Church. The Catholic Church celebrates Palm Sunday to commemorate the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. The event marks the beginning of Holy Week, which ends on Easter Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 84

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

13 dead in NY

A man barricaded the back entrance of a New York state immigration services center Friday, walked through the front door into the midst of a citizenship class and murdered 13 people. He critically wounded four others before turning a weapon on himself. Just a few weeks ago, a gunman in Alabama shot and killed 10 people, including several members of his own family, and wounded six others before taking his own life. Another man late last month gunned down a nurse and seven elderly people, while injuring at least three others, in a North Carolina nursing home.

Just in these three recent episodes, 31 people died and the lives of many others were traumatically altered forever by gun violence. No one may ever fully understand what kind of fury or demon gripped the gunmen. Yet too often in this country, guns amplify the damage that can be done.

President Obama, traveling overseas Friday, expressed shock and sadness at the latest crimes. In New York, Vice President Biden declared, "We've got to figure out a way to deal with this terrible, terrible violence." Appropriate sentiments, to be sure, but exactly the kind of routine words of condolence and concern offered after every tragedy of this kind. What is needed is action and the promulgation of sensible gun laws — from strict registration requirements to cooling-off periods before purchases are permitted, to a resurrection of the federal ban on assault weapons.

Gun rights advocates like to remind us that "guns don't kill people; people kill people." That may be true, and we don't know what effect sensible laws might have had on these specific cases. But we know that such laws, consistent with the Second Amendment, could save lives. Those intent on killing others or too disturbed to stop such impulses would do far less harm without the aid of sidearms or assault rifles.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

New words for war

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton recently confirmed that the Obama administration has dropped the phrase "global war on terror." She didn't say why. "I think that speaks for itself. Obviously," was her elaboration. That raised a few obvious questions: Does the new administration believe the fight against al-Qaida and other extreme Islamist groups doesn't amount to war? Is the threat to the U.S. homeland less, in President Obama's estimation, than that perceived by President George W. Bush? And does the United States still expect its NATO military allies to join in this newly unnamed, speaks-for-itself endeavor?

A partial answer came this week in congressional testimony by Gen. David Petraeus and Michelle Flournoy, undersecretary of defense for policy, who described a serious and continuing menace from terrorist networks. "In the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region you have continued safe haven for al-Qaida and other ex-

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"UNFORTUNATELY, WE WEREN'T PAYING TAXES BEFORE NOT PAYING TAXES WAS COOL."

Negotiating a minefield of bad news

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Does the name Byran Uyesugi ring a bell? Odds are not. What about Robert A. Hawkins? Or Mark Barton? Terry Ratzmann? Robert Stewart?

Each entered the national consciousness when he picked up a gun and ended multiple lives. Uyesugi, 1999, Hawaii office building, seven dead. Hawkins, 2007, Nebraska shopping mall, nine dead. Barton, Ratzmann and Stewart—24 dead among them in 1999 (Atlanta brokerage offices), 2005 (Wisconsin church service) and last week (North Carolina rehab center).

And each has been largely forgotten as the parade of multiple killings in America melts into an indistinguishable blur. We bemoan, we mourn, we move on.

What's even more disturbing is that the list above was cherry-picked from a far lengthier tally of recent mass shootings in the United States. And now, this weekend, on a crisp, sunny Saturday morning in Pittsburgh, the lives of three police officers ended in gunfire after a domestic dispute turned lethal.

The mass shootings that left 14 people dead in Binghamton, N.Y., on Friday were horrifying, depressing, nationally wrenching. They were also, to some extent, unsurprising in a society where the term "mass shooting" has lost its status as unthinkable aberration and become mere fodder for a fresh news cycle.

"We have to guard against the senseless violence that this tragedy represents," President Barack Obama said in Europe on Saturday. Senseless violence: Two centuries from now, if we're not careful, it could be an epitaph for our era.

Even in a media-saturated nation that encourages short memories, these numbers are conversation-stopping: More than 50 people dead in the past month in American mass shootings and their aftermaths. It's to the point where on Saturday, dizzily, the mayor of Binghamton found himself offering Pittsburgh his sympathies.

It becomes almost impossible to keep up. By Saturday night, there was more dispiriting news from another corner of the country: In Graham, Wash., five children between 7 and 16 years old were found shot to death in a mobile-home park—apparently at the hands of their father, who then killed himself.

Put aside for a moment the debate over guns. This isn't about policy. It's about asking the urgent question: What is happening in the American psyche that prevents people from defusing their own anguish and rage before they end the lives of others? Why are we killing each other?

This is not an era of good feeling in the United States. We have

under our belt eight years of pernicious terrorism angst, six years of Iraq war weariness and, now, months of wondering how bad the American economy's going to get and when—or, worse, whether—it's going to come back. People are tense. There's less inclination to help out your fellow human being.

Meanwhile, anchors and analysts and witnesses and bloggers cast about in an information-age fog trying to make sense of something that is, in the worst way, nonsensical. They rush to offer solutions, but the thing they typically dodge is that we seem to be powerless to stop it all—that our community, our neighbors, may be next. That's too terrifying to contemplate, not to mention too open-ended for American news consumers reared on tidy Hollywood endings.

The Binghamton newspaper, the Press & Sun Bulletin, seemed to acknowledge the resignation in a glum editorial Saturday that wondered if it was simply, sadly, and inevitably Binghamton's turn to give up a few of its people to the juggernaut.

"It is our turn to grieve and to rally in support of those whose lives have been shattered," the newspaper said. "And it's our turn to hug those in our own families and wonder how a quiet, rainy Friday in a peaceful place became the setting for such a nightmare."

The strangest of contradictions hangs over the Binghamton shootings. The shooter and many of the victims were immigrants—part of the pool of human beings who look to America as a place of opportunity and take often anonymous steps to realize their dreams here. On Friday, the idea that had beckoned them betrayed them.

The man believed to be the shooter, Jiverly Wong, had lost his job at an assembly plant, was barely getting by on unemployment and was frustrated that the American dream, so highly billed and coveted, wasn't coming through for him. Early reports suggest that the suspect in the Pittsburgh officers' killings, too, was angered at being laid off from a glass factory.

People are of course responsible for their actions, but it's hard to avoid wondering what's afoot in the darkest recesses of what we like to call American exceptionalism. For so long, the national narrative has been so bullish about equality of opportunity, so persuasive in its romance of possibility for all. Is it so subversive to speculate, then, that when the engine of possibility runs into roadblocks, people can't cope?

Without excusing one whit of the violent tendencies that ended with so many bullets in so many bodies from Binghamton to North Carolina to Alabama to California in the past month, isn't it time, finally, to figure out where this national dream makes a wrong turn?

"Maybe research can prevent further tragedies of this type," a man named Charles Whitman wrote one day in 1966. Then he ascended a tower at the University of Texas, looked out over the

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

The Marpi homestead problem...er...project

On Monday, March 30, 2009, Mr. Jesse Torres of Kagman published an exceptional letter to the editor concerning why Marpi was selected to be the designated area for the upcoming homesteading project near Suicide Cliff. I would agree entirely with his feelings and concerns. I imagine it is now far too late, but of all the overgrown, available land to the east and south, I have to agree, why Marpi? Please drive up to Suicide Cliff and you will see what I am talking about. There are million dollar views looking southwest toward the beautiful aqua lagoon, reef, and Managaha Island. But that's not the intent of my letter, so I need to get to the point.

Last Friday, March 27, 2009, I drove to the site where the workers were clearing the land of vegetation, trees, and any war ordnance. I pulled off the road near some workers and immediately a Caucasian

man came over to my car. "Where is the silt fence?" I asked him. "What happens if we get 2 to 3 inches of rain?" He then replied to me, "Who are you?" I said that I lived in Marpi approximately 300 yards directly to the south of the site. He assured me that all necessary things had been done to comply with any codes and requirements involved in a land clearing of this magnitude. He said that all berms were in place to prevent runoff of newly exposed soil. I don't want to give them any free advertising at all, but the company's name on the truck was AMPRO.

On Tuesday, March 31, 2009, I returned since I had a bad feeling about last Friday's inspection and I wanted to check on this cocky guy's poor response to my previous questions last week. Guess what, now there were 24" to 36" berms in place where there previ-

ously were not at all. They must have appeared over the weekend mysteriously! I am not a professional developer and do not pretend to be one, but I didn't appreciate the man's attitude toward me questioning him about the quality of the work they were doing with no visible barriers for runoff prevention. It's called common sense! Someone from the proper CNMI agency needs to review this further (i.e., DLNR, DEQ, MPLA.)

I am relieved now that these berms to alleviate runoff were added and that we did not get any measurable rainfall before they were added. I did not appreciate the guy's dishonesty and total lack of concern.

Steve Myers
Marpi, Saipan

A plea for forgiveness and comfort

To all the teenagers in the CNMI: Please, let's all learn from others who had made mistakes (bad judgment; not paying attention; or just being "ignorant" by being careless and not thinking clearly at all). Whatever happened to the phrase "Friends don't let friends drive drunk"? Did we stop caring about each other? Are you truly a dear and caring person? If so, then please don't let anybody drive drunk, regardless of age, sex, or ethnicity of a person. We have to start caring and remind each and every individuals that we care—by taking their car keys away, offering to drop them home, or making an attempt to contact their family members to have someone pick him/her up.

Unfortunately, an accident happened in the early morning of April 1, 2009. Prior to the accident, four young men called one another—they were close friends and former classmates—and decided to go to a party and eventually they continued to party at the beach. It was after 3am when they finally decided that they had enough. They hopped on a mini-truck and drove to Dandan. They picked up another friend to drop the rest of the boys at their homes. Less than three minutes after they left

the house, the unfortunate accident happened, leaving one friend dead, one friend seriously injured, and three friends with minor injuries.

My son was the driver of that tragic and terrible accident, and he will have to live with what happened to his friend "Cinto" for the rest of his life. He will never forget what happened. My family and I also carry the weight of the loss of my son's friend.

We will continue to pray for my son's friend and may the Lord have mercy on his soul, as we continue to pray for comfort for the family of his late friend "Cinto." To our family, friends and the CNMI community, I humbly ask for your prayers and support for the parents and family of the late Anicento Teregeyo Taitano. To the family and friends of the survivors, please help us by praying to our Creator for forgiveness and comfort in our hearts and in our thoughts. *Si Yu 'us Ma'ase* and may God bless us all.

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

In the Era of Fear

There is nothing to fear but fear itself, said Roosevelt. Freedom from fear is one of our four revered freedoms. So why this frenzy of fear in our imaginings?

In a sense, the Era of Fear in the western hemisphere occurred at the onset of the Cold War when distrust of the commies—the Ruskies and the Chinks, and their socialist cohorts in the non-aligned nations like Sukarno and Nasser—became a matter of public policy.

The proponents of Hegelian conflict dualism and ideological contradiction thinking needed a replacement of the godless commies when *glasnots* was launched and after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, so we designated the violent jihadist as our new enemies. No longer were we just fearful; we have become terror-stricken!

Jittery Japan jumped the trigger when it announced Saturday that North Korea launched a ballistic missile. A day later, the North Koreans launched their missile aimed to improve their satellite communication capability, according to Pyongyang. Seoul immediately dubbed it as "reckless" while the U.S. called it "provocative." Japan, of course, immediately launched a protest in the United Nations, convening the Security Council within 24 hours for deliberations.

Never mind that all of South Korea's military arsenal and preparedness is toward the liberation of North Korea from its despotic rulers. South Korea's capabilities far exceed what a defensive stance would require, and its levels of alertness have all its missiles, includ-

ing undeclared nuclear arsenal, pointed toward the North.

It does not matter that the U.S. Navy routinely conducts naval surveillance provocatively close to, if not frequently within, NK's international mile limit.

Japan, of course, is still smarting from the surprise it got in the late 90s when Pyongyang shot a missile over its airspace. Japan has since spent billions of dollars to create a missile shield and had vowed to shoot down any missile part that might threaten a landing on Japanese soil. Japan's state-of-the-art arsenal of missile crafts, particularly its vaunted Patriot missiles, are directed toward the northern part of the Korean peninsula.

I am reminded of our response when the Urdu-speaking Hindus, and later, the Urdu-speaking Muslim Pakistanis, tested their nuclear arsenals. We were sure you could not trust these trigger-happy backward nations from exposing the planet to an atomic holocaust.

With Kim Jong-Il about to preside over NK's legislative assembly, and a trial of two Americans about to be launched in a border town near China, obviously meant to attract the Western press, we can only wish that the new satellite launching capability will henceforth make North Korea accessible to the world, as well as teach the rest of us to reign in on our overly nurtured culture of fear.

Jaime Vergara
via e-mail

NEW

From Page 10

tremists, who we know are actively plotting against American interests, American allies and the American homeland. So this is a matter of vital national interest," said Flournoy. Said Gen. Petraeus: "All of (the terrorist groups) together represent a threat . . . and, in certain cases, a truly global extremist threat."

But it was Obama himself who most compellingly stated the administration's position, and in the best of locales—in front of a European audience this week in Strasbourg, France. "I think it's important for Europe to understand that even though I'm now president and George Bush is no longer president, al-Qaida is still a threat," he said. "It is going to be a very difficult challenge." The president noted that some argue that if the United States changed policies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or "were more respectful towards the Muslim world, suddenly these organizations would stop threatening us." He concluded: "That's just not the case."

"We believe that we cannot just win militarily," said Obama, citing

the new development and diplomatic efforts he has launched in Afghanistan and Pakistan. "But there will be a military component to it, and Europe should not simply expect the United States to shoulder that burden alone." George W. Bush might have spoken those words, but Obama, in contrast to how his predecessor might have been received, was greeted with applause by his European audience.

So the threat is "a matter of vital national interest," it is "global," and it requires a military response, with NATO's participation. It seems the "global war on terrorism" will continue—only without the name. There is some logic to that: Obama is acutely aware of the damage done by the Bush administration to American prestige in Europe and throughout the Muslim world, and he has spoken much this week of a fresh start. As many have pointed out, the old term was awkward—"terror" describes a means of war, not an enemy. The challenge for the new administration is to describe that enemy and the campaign against it in ways that convey its urgency to both Americans and foreign audiences—and that unite rather than polarize. In that respect, Obama made a good start in Strasbourg.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

A bald spot on Marpi

I visit the Commonwealth frequently, especially Saipan. I enjoy the beauty of both the scenery and people of the island while still having modern conveniences close by. On my first trip to Saipan, like all tourists, I had the chance to see some of the most spectacular scenery. Suicide Cliff was one of them. I remember seeing thick halom tano' (jungle) and the beautiful ocean from the cliff's edge. The last thing I would ever want to see is a bald spot in the jungle where bulldozers and workers are clearing one of the few remaining untouched spots on island. I wholeheartedly agree with Ruth Tighe's recent letter to the editor. I don't understand why this administration would go forth with such a ridiculous idea. I'm sure there are other feasible areas on island where this homestead project can take place. As a "tourist" and lover of the CNMI, I urge the government to stop this project and keep this beautiful piece of land untouched for all to enjoy.

Aguarin Iriarte
Guam

Clarification

In the article "Ex-governor Lang to run for a House seat," published on April 4, 2009, I was misquoted. I don't remember commenting about Governor Fitial, as there was no reason for me to do that. I am not running for governor so I have no business saying anything about any gubernatorial candidate. However, I distinctly remember saying that although I am a registered member of the National Republican Party, I am not a member of the local Republican Party.

The two main issues in this election year are the economy and the island power crisis. I just got back from a trip to Pohnpei where I learned that the electric rate was \$0.315 per kilowatt. Obviously, something is awfully amiss with our island power system when a much smaller island has a cheaper rate than we do. And obviously, the House members from election district 1 have not done anything about it.

I am confident that I can take care of this crisis if elected; and if I didn't, be assured that I won't be running for re-election.

Froilan C. Tenorio
via e-mail

Editor's Note: The Saipan Tribune stands by the accuracy of its story.

NEGOTIATING

From Page 10

campus, pulled out a shotgun, three rifles and three pistols and killed 16 people.

Forty-three years and countless reams of research and lost loved ones later, we have not figured it out. Today, the American Civic Association in Binghamton says so. The Pittsburgh Police Department says so. The vulnerable people at the Pinelake Health and Rehab Center in Carthage, N.C., say so.

Of Jiverly Wong, Binghamton police Chief Joseph Zikuski had this to say Saturday: "He must have been a coward." Perhaps. But that's the beginning of an answer, not the end of one. On Friday, the federal government announced that 663,000 Americans lost their jobs in March. What's truly unsettling in America's new era of gloom and dead ends is wondering how many of those 663,000 might be deeply, irrevocably angry about it—and might have a gun.

Because the American tragedies that haven't happened yet are the most terrifying ones of all.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

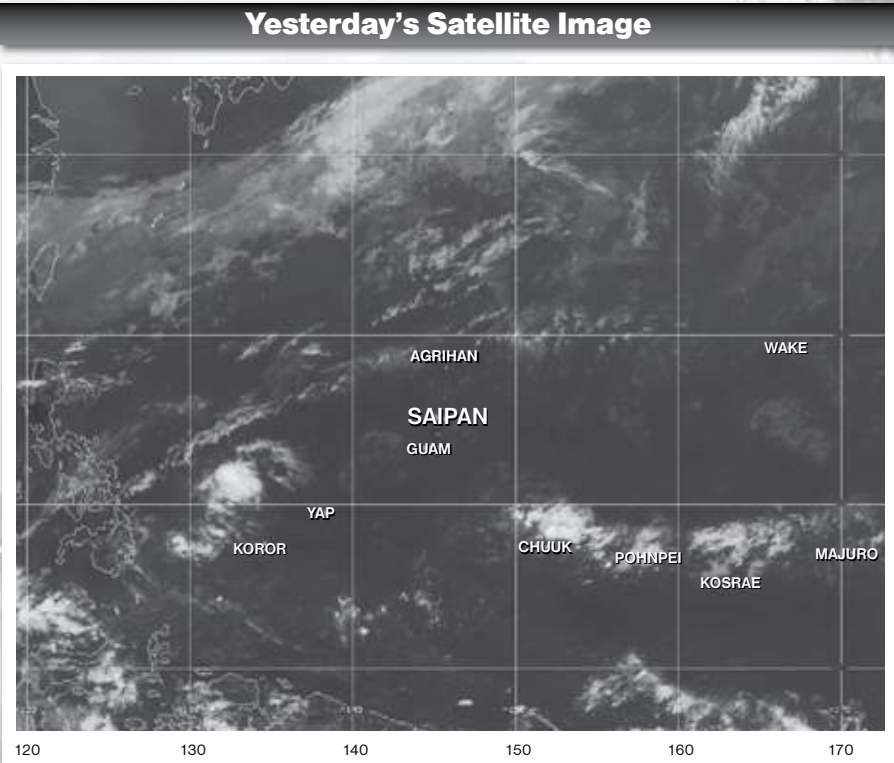
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Sunny	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Sunny	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲67 ▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲86 ▼50
Hong Kong	Showers	▲77 ▼70
Honolulu	Showers	▲77 ▼69
London	Showers	▲57 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼53
Manila	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲65 ▼54
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼54
New York	Showers	▲46 ▼36
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼47
Paris	Showers	▲53 ▼41
Pusan	Sunny	▲64 ▼47
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲67 ▼48
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▼40
San Francisco	Rain	▲64 ▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼36
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼52
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲51 ▼33

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
6:14 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:30 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:11 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers across eastern Micronesia from Chuuk through Pohnpei and Kosrae to Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 10N151E to 7N157E to 8N165E to 9N173E. A weak trade wind disturbance is generating scattered showers within 50 miles of a line from 7N130E to 12N133E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	Today	3:30 PM	3:25 AM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	Tuesday	4:24 PM	4:07 AM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	Wednesday	5:17 PM	4:46 AM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Thursday	6:11 PM	5:25 AM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Friday	7:59 PM	6:47 AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Airlines earn higher marks for quality in 2008

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sources: Sun deal cloudy after IBM pulls offer

BOSTON (AP)—IBM Corp. withdrew its offer to buy Sun Microsystems Inc. for about \$7 billion this weekend, clouding the prospects for a deal that would have shaken up the computing industry, The Associated Press has learned. Talks were in their final stages in recent days, but IBM took its offer off the table after Sun terminated IBM's status as its exclusive negotiating partner, according to two people familiar with the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the negotiations. One of these people said the two sides were still meeting Sunday. Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM was believed to be offering about \$9.50 per share for Sun. That was about double the price the Santa Clara, Calif.-based server and software maker was trading for when the discussions leaked last month. Sun shares closed Friday at \$8.49.

GM CEO softens company's opposition to bankruptcy

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. is softening its opposition to bankruptcy reorganization a little more. "If it's required, that's what we'll do," new Chief Executive Fritz Henderson said in an interview broadcast Sunday, but noted that GM still would prefer to avoid bankruptcy protection while restructuring. President Barack Obama and his auto industry task force have indicated that bankruptcy protection "may very well be the best solution for the company to achieve these goals," Henderson told CNN's "State of the Union." That is why, he said, "when you look at the situation, we said, 'OK, we'll spend the time to try to complete the work, more aggressive work, outside of the court process, but if it's required, that's what we'll do.'"

Gridlock stalls replacement of aging air tankers

WASHINGTON (AP)—After more than 50 years as the military's gas station in the sky—and a decade of attempts to replace it—the KC-135 is showing its age. At a base outside the nation's capital, the cockpit of a 1957 aerial refueling plane still has a quarter-sized hole in the ceiling which crews once used to navigate by the stars. Pilot hands have worn away much of the black paint from the yokes used to guide the jet. Large patches of silver tape hold up tubing in the cabin. And the oldest member of the crew on a recent training mission was still seven years younger than the plane. Despite its age, the Air Force still needs the KC-135 for a critical mission: keeping its fighter jets and other planes flying as far and long as possible. The tanker planes were built in the late 50s and early 60s and were supposed to fly for 20 years.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airlines carried fewer people last year, but did a better job for those who did fly.

The rates of lost bags, late arrivals, passengers bumped from overbooked flights and consumer complaints all declined, private researchers say in their annual study of airline quality, based on government statistics.

While the industry had its best overall performance in the ratings in four years, the picture was not entirely rosy.

High fuel costs and a poor economy led many airlines to reduce schedules, raise ticket prices, jettison frills and put in place fees for everything from luggage to pillows.

Nevertheless, consumer complaints for the 17 airlines included in the study dipped from 1.42 per 100,000 passengers in 2007 to 1.15 in 2008. Southwest

Airlines had the best rate, only 0.25 complaints per 100,000 passengers; US Airways had the worst rate, 2.25.

Half of all complaints involved baggage or flight problems such as cancellations, delays or other schedule deviations.

The average on-time performance last year was 3 percentage points better than the year before, yet nearly one-quarter of all flights were late. The study being released Monday said 12 airlines improved from the previous year, but only three airlines had better than an 80 percent on-time rate: Hawaiian Airlines, 90 percent; Southwest, 80.5 percent; and US Airways, 80.1 percent.

American Airlines, the nation's largest air carrier as measured by passengers flown the most miles, had the worst record, arriving on time only

69.8 percent of the time.

The overall rate of passengers denied boardings—usually bumpings due to overbooking—dipped slightly, from 1.14 per 10,000 passengers to 1.1 in 2008. Jet Blue had the lowest rate for the second year in a row, 0.01 per 10,000 passengers; Atlantic Southeast Airlines had the highest rate, 3.89.

All the airlines did a better job handling passengers' baggage. The mishandled baggage rate fell from 7.01 bags per 1,000 passengers in 2007 to 5.19 bags in 2008.

AirTran Airways did the best job, with 2.87 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers; American Eagle Airlines did the worst, at 9.89.

The study, compiled annually since 1991, is based on Transportation Department statistics for airlines that carry

at least 1 percent of the passengers who flew domestically last year. The research is sponsored by the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and by Wichita State University in Kansas.

An overall ranking of the 17 airlines based on their combined performance in four categories was to be released Monday.

The improved performance was not surprising because 2007 was the worst year for airlines in the study, said co-author Dean Headley, an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State.

The aviation system suffered close to a meltdown in 2007 as domestic carriers reported 770 million passengers in the busiest year for air travel since before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Aviation experts said the air transport system had reached capacity.



SHUTDOWN THREAT

People go into the main entrance of *The Boston Globe* newspaper, in this Feb. 1, 2006, file photo in Boston. The New York Times Co. threatens to shut down one of its most prized possessions, the 137-year-old *Boston Globe*, if it doesn't win millions in union concessions, stunning insiders at two of the country's most famous newspapers.

Recession outlasts even extended jobless benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the coming weeks and months, hundreds of thousands of jobless Americans will exhaust their unemployment benefits, just when it's never been harder to find a job.

Congress extended unemployment aid twice last year, allowing people to draw a total of up to 59 weeks of benefits. Now, as the recession drags on, a rolling wave of people who were laid off early last year will lose them.

Precise figures are hard to determine, but Wayne Vroman, an economist at the Urban Institute, estimates that up to 700,000 people could exhaust their extended benefits by the second half of this year.

Some will find new jobs, but prospects will be grim: Layoffs are projected to go on, and many economists expect the jobless rate, already at 8.5 percent, to hit 10 percent by year's end.

"It's going to be a monstrous problem," Vroman said.

U.S. employers shed 663,000 jobs

in March, and the jobless rate now stands at its highest in a quarter-century. Since the recession began in December 2007, a net total of 5.1 million jobs have disappeared.

Those who know that their unemployment aid is about to run out are counting the days, taking on odd jobs, moving in with relatives and fretting about the future.

"My biggest fear is we'll lose the house," said Hernan Alvarez, 54, an Orlando, Fla., construction worker who lost his job in July and whose benefits will end in four weeks. "The only thing I can do is keep looking for work and hope tomorrow will be better than today."

That so many people have remained on jobless aid for more than a year underscores the depth and duration of the recession, which began in December 2007. If the downturn extends into May, it will be the longest recession since the Great Depression.

To sustain rally, market looks to earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—Enthusiasm over government programs aimed at breaking a logjam in bank lending has become the key driver of the market's recent surge. But that could take a back seat in coming weeks as investors return to their bread-and-butter indicator: quarterly earnings data.

Coming off a nearly 12-year low in early March, the Dow Jones industrial average just wrapped up its best four-week run since 1933. A shift from fear to hope has largely been propelled by policy initiatives and some corporate news, such as bank executives saying

their businesses were profitable in January and February.

But as investors' focus shifts, so might momentum. This week they'll begin poring over first-quarter earnings results to see if anything has improved. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. is set to kick off first-quarter earnings season on Tuesday with a quarterly loss.

The current rally will only last if companies show some improvement in quarterly results. Disappointing results, especially in key sectors such as banking and retail, would likely kill market momentum.

AT&T and union talks continue past deadline

By **STEPHEN SINGER**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AT&T and unions for its landline workers were working past a strike deadline Sunday to try to reach agreement on a new contract.

Core wireline contracts across the country expired at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, but union-represented employees covered by those contracts continued

to work under the old agreements, the two parties said.

Issues such as employment security and health care have yet to be resolved, but union members will report to work, "although that can change at any time," the Communications Workers of America said on its Web site Sunday.

The union said several of its districts have filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board, accusing AT&T of

refusing to provide information on the cost of benefits and other issues necessary to resolve outstanding issues.

"The CWA bargaining teams are very frustrated by AT&T's slow pace in negotiations," union spokeswoman Candice Johnson said late Saturday. She said Sunday that the union has been seeking the information since contract talks began Feb. 24.

AT&T spokesman Walt Sharp said

the NLRB charges are "very common" during negotiations.

"We routinely respond to data requests the union files," he said.

The number of workers affected by the contract was reduced when the two parties failed to reach agreement Saturday night. A unit representing about 32,000 AT&T workers in the Southeast will negotiate a separate contract that expires in August.

Nation

After 18-year ban, media see return of US war dead

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AP)—Media witnessed a Sunday night ceremony for the arrival of a Virginia airman killed in Afghanistan, marking the end of an 18-year ban on news coverage of returning U.S. war dead.

After receiving permission from family members, the military opened Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to the media for the return of the body of Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers of Hopewell, Va.

The 30-year-old airman was killed April 4 near Helmand province, Afghanistan, when he was hit with an improvised explosive device, the Department of Defense said.

Myers' family was the first to be asked under a new Pentagon policy whether it wished to have media coverage of the arrival of a loved one at the Dover base mortuary, the entry point for service personnel killed overseas. The family agreed, but declined to be interviewed or photographed.

On a cool, clear night under the yellowish haze of floodlights on the tarmac, an eight-member team wearing white gloves and camouflage battle fatigues carried Myers' body off of a military contract Boeing 747 that touched down at 9:19 p.m. after a flight from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Myers' widow and other family members, along with about two dozen members of the media, attended the solemn ceremony, which took about 20 minutes and was punctuated only by clicking of camera shutters and the barked salute orders of Col. Dave Horton, operations group commander of Dover's 436th Airlift Wing.

Horton presided over the ceremony along with Air Force civil engineer Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg and Maj. Klavens Noel, a mortuary chaplain.

Noel and the other officers boarded the plane for a brief prayer before an



The casket of Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers, of Hopewell, Va., who was killed Afghanistan on April 4 is lowered to the tarmac on Sunday, April 5, 2009 in Dover Air Force Base, Del.

automatic loader slowly lowered the flag-draped transfer case bearing Myers' body about 20 feet to the tarmac, where the eight-member team slowly carried it to a white-paneled truck.

Preceded by a security vehicle with flashing blue and red lights, the truck then slowly made its way to the base mortuary, where Myers' body will be processed for return to his family.

Myers was a member of the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron with the Royal Air Force in Lakenheath, England, one of the bases the U.S. Air Force uses in the country. He was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery last year in recognition of his efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Department of Defense said.

Myers' widow flew from England to attend the arrival of his body to the U.S., which marked the first time since 1991 that members of media were allowed to witness the return of a combat casualty to Dover.

The ban was put in place by President George H.W. Bush in 1991, at the time of the Persian Gulf War. From the start, it was cast as a way to shield grieving families.

But critics argued the government was trying to hide the human cost of war. President Barack Obama had asked for a review of the ban, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that the blanket restriction made him uncomfortable.

Under the new policy, families of

fallen servicemen will decide whether to allow media coverage of their return. If several bodies arrive on the same flight, news coverage will be allowed only for those whose families have given permission.

There have been some exceptions since 1991, most notably in 1996 when President Bill Clinton attended the arrival of the remains of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 32 others killed in a plane crash in Croatia. In 2000, the Pentagon distributed photographs of the arrival of remains of those killed in the bombing of the USS Cole and in 2001, the Air Force distributed a photograph of the remains of a victim of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

Va funeral home accused of atrocious conditions

WASHINGTON (AP)—A funeral home that helps handle veterans awaiting burial at Arlington National Cemetery left corpses in an unrefrigerated garage, hallways and on makeshift gurneys, according to a former embalmer who has given his photographs and notes to authorities, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

"It was disturbing and disrespectful and unethical," said Steven Napper, a retired Maryland trooper who worked at the funeral home for nine months. "I never could have imagined what I saw there or the things we were asked to do."

Napper said he saw as many as 200 corpses not properly cared for while working at National Funeral Home in Falls Church, Va., from May until he quit in February. National Funeral Home also embalms and stores bodies for four other funeral homes in the D.C. region that are all part of Houston-based Service Corporation International, the world's largest funeral services conglomerate.

The Post reported that Napper's documentation as well as the observations of three other employees and a grieving son have sparked an investigation by the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

US highway deaths at lowest levels since 1961

WASHINGTON (AP)—An economic downturn can have a bright side: U.S. highway deaths in 2008 fell to their lowest level since John F. Kennedy was president.

The recession and \$4 per gallon gas meant people drove less to save more. Experts also cited record high seat belt use, tighter enforcement of drunken driving laws and the work of advocacy groups that encourage safer driving habits.

Preliminary figures being released by the government Monday show that 37,313 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes last year. That's 9.1 percent lower than the year before, when 41,059 died, and the fewest since 1961, when there were 36,285 deaths.

A different measure, also offering good news, was the fatality rate, the

number of deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. It was 1.28 in 2008, the lowest on record. A year earlier it was 1.36.

"The silver lining in a bad economy is that people drive less, and so the number of deaths go down," said Adrian Lund, president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. "Not only do they drive less but the kinds of driving they do tend to be less risky—there's less discretionary driving."

Fatalities fell by more than 14 percent in New England, and by 10 percent or more in many states along the Atlantic seaboard, parts of the Upper Midwest and the West Coast, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Americans should really be pleased

that everyone has stepped up here in order to make driving safer and that people are paying attention to that," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said.

In the past, tough economic times have brought similar declines in roadway deaths. Fatalities fell more than 16 percent from 1973 to 1974 as the nation dealt with the oil crisis and inflation. Highway deaths dropped nearly 11 percent from 1981 to 1982 as President Ronald Reagan battled a recession.

The government said vehicle miles traveled in 2008 fell by about 3.6 percent, to 2.92 trillion miles, indicating many people adjusted their driving habits as gas prices fluctuated and the economy tumbled. The number of miles driven by motorists had risen steadily over the past three decades.

Police: Dad killed kids because wife was leaving

GRAHAM, Wash. (AP)—A man who fatally shot his five children and killed himself had just discovered his wife was leaving him for another man, authorities said Sunday.

The bodies of James Harrison's children, ages 7 to 16, were found with multiple gunshot wounds Saturday in the family's mobile home, most of them in their beds. Harrison's body had been found earlier in the day with

a self-inflicted gunshot wound, behind the wheel of his idling car.

The night before, the father and his eldest daughter went in search of his wife, Angela Harrison. The daughter used a GPS feature in her mother's cell phone to find her with another man at a convenience store in nearby Auburn, said Ed Troyer, spokesman for the Pierce County Sheriff. The woman told her husband she was not coming

home, and was leaving him for the man with her at the store. The father and the daughter left, distraught, Troyer said.

Sometime after the children went to sleep, he shot each of them multiple times. Four died in their beds. The fifth was found in the bathroom, surrounded by signs of violent struggle.

"He wanted the kids dead," Troyer said. "It wasn't like he shot a few rounds. He shot several rounds."

ACROSS THE NATION

Fight over urinating dog got police to Pa. ambush

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A 911 call that brought two police officers to a home where they were ambushed, and where a third was also later killed during a four-hour siege, was precipitated by a fight between the gunman and his mother over a dog urinating in the house. The Saturday argument between Margaret and Richard Poplawski escalated to the point that she threatened to kick him out and she called police to do it, according to a 12-page criminal complaint and affidavit filed late Saturday. When officers Paul Sciuillo II and Stephen Mayhle arrived, Margaret Poplawski opened the door and told them to come in and take her 23-year-old son, apparently unaware he was standing behind her with a rifle, the affidavit said. Hearing gunshots, she spun around to see her son with the gun and ran to the basement.

Strong wind hampers crews battling Texas fires

WHEELER, Texas (AP)—Firefighters from the Texas-Oklahoma border to the Gulf Coast struggled Sunday to contain wildfires that have destroyed homes, killed cattle and charred thousands of acres. The largest of those fires, an 15,000-acre blaze near the Panhandle town of Wheeler, destroyed eight homes and 26 outbuildings, including barns and garages. An unknown number of cattle were killed, according to the Texas Forest Service. Forest Service spokeswoman Jeanne Eastham said Sunday that the fire was about 25 percent contained. Strong winds continued to hamper firefighting efforts there and elsewhere. Four houses, two businesses and six outbuildings were destroyed in a fire in Aransas County on the Gulf Coast late Sunday afternoon. The fire, which covered about 70 acres, threatened at least 100 homes.

Volunteers help salamanders avoid roadway massacre

NEW HAVEN, Vt. (AP)—The black salamander with yellow spots sat on the roadside in the dark, ready to make a go of it. But it was not on its own. It got help from an escort—one of 45 people who volunteered on a recent night to carry salamanders, frogs and newts across the road during their annual migration to mate. On rainy nights in early spring, roads between forests and vernal pools are hopping and crawling with activity. On some nights, hundreds of amphibians cross small stretches of asphalt to mate. But many don't make it. From rural Vermont to urban centers like Philadelphia, human escorts, called bucket brigades in some places, help amphibians make it to their mating areas without getting squashed by cars. It's part education, part conservation, and part science.

Asia

NKorea rocket fizzles, US says; Obama urges action

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.S. and its allies sought punishment Sunday for North Korea's defiant launch of a rocket that apparently fizzled into the Pacific, holding an emergency U.N. meeting in response to the "provocative act" that some believe was a long-range missile test.

President Barack Obama, faced with his first global security crisis, called for an international response and condemned North Korea for threatening the peace and stability of nations "near and far." Minutes after liftoff, Japan requested the emergency Security Council session in New York.

U.S. and South Korean officials claim the entire rocket, including whatever payload it carried, ended up in the ocean but many world leaders fear the launch indicates the capacity to fire a long-range missile. Pyongyang claims it launched an experimental communications satellite into orbit Sunday and that it is transmitting data and patriotic songs.

"North Korea broke the rules, once again, by testing a rocket that could be used for long-range missiles," Obama said in Prague. "It creates instability in their region, around the world. This provocation underscores



Defectors from North Korea and conservative activists release balloons with some leaflets condemning North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and North Korea's rocket launch at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of the Panmunjom (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas since the Korean War, South Korea, Monday, April 6, 2009.

the need for action, not just this afternoon in the U.N. Security Council, but in our determination to prevent the spread of these weapons."

Council members met for three hours, seeking above all a unified response, but broke up for the night without issuing even a customary preliminary statement of condemnation.

Diplomats privy to the closed-door talks say China, Russia, Libya and Vietnam were concerned about further alienating and destabilizing North Korea.

"We're now in a very sensitive moment," Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yesui said after the talks concluded. "Our position is that all countries concerned should show restraint, and refrain from

taking actions that might lead to increased tensions."

Diplomats continued bilateral talks into the evening. The council's five permanent members—the U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia—left for a meeting with Japan.

The U.S., Britain, France and Japan drafted a proposal for a resolution that could be ad-

opted by the end of the week. It is aimed at toughening existing economic sanctions by "naming and shaming" individuals and entities, council diplomats said.

Mexican Ambassador Claude Heller, the council's president, said the council would reconvene "as soon as possible" on Monday to reach consensus on what to do about North Korea.

Using a possible loophole in U.N. sanctions imposed after the 2006 nuclear test that barred the North from ballistic missile activity, the Pyongyang government claimed it was exercising its right to peaceful space development.

The U.S. said nuclear-armed North Korea clearly violated the resolution, but objections from Russia and China—the North's closest ally—will almost certainly water down any strong response. Both have Security Council veto power.

"Obviously today's action by North Korea constitutes a clear violation," said Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "My government has called this a provocative act, and we have been in consultation today with our allies in the region and other partners on the Security Council ... to work toward agreement on a strong collective action."

With conditions set on aid, Pakistan sharpens tone

ISLAMABAD (AP)—When U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke arrives in Pakistan this week he will be publicly feted for President Barack Obama's pledge of massive, long-term aid for a wobbling nation critical to America's strategy for turning around its the war in Afghanistan.

But the money doesn't come without conditions, and Pakistan—while eager for the funds to shore up its faltering economy and develop its ability to counter insurgents—is honing a list of questions that highlight significant differences over the right way to combat al-Qaida and its

growing band of regional allies, officials and analysts say.

Holbrooke, Washington's special representative for the region, is expected in Islamabad on Monday, the first high-level U.S. visitor since Obama labeled Pakistan's border region "the most dangerous place in the world" for America because of the terrorists it houses, "almost certainly" including Osama bin Laden.

But Obama has warned that the pledge of \$7.5 billion in civilian aid over five years will only be forthcoming if Pakistan demonstrates its commitment

to uprooting al-Qaida and other violent extremists—comments that have done nothing for the often-strained relationship.

Islamabad points out the hundreds of Pakistani troops killed by militant attacks or in a series of ill-fated operations along the Afghan border since Pakistan dropped its support for the Taliban in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

"We have sacrificed much more than they have sacrificed," Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said Thursday. "We have sacrificed our soldiers. We

have sacrificed our economy. What else do they want?"

What Washington says it wants is better cooperation from Pakistan's powerful but reluctant security establishment, especially the pivotal Inter-Services Intelligence agency. After months of leaks to U.S. newspapers, Holbrooke, U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen and other American officials have in the past week gone public with allegations that the ISI has sustained links with—and perhaps secretly aided—some militant groups, a charge vehemently denied by Islamabad.

Philippines considers pullout to save 2 hostages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials said Sunday they will consider a demand by al-Qaida-linked militants for government troops to pull back from around a jungle stronghold after the gunmen renewed a threat to kill their two remaining Red Cross hostages.

Sen. Richard Gordon, who heads the local Red Cross, said Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad has renewed a threat to behead the two hostages—Swiss Andreas Notter and Italian Eugenio Vagni—unless government forces withdraw from around the militants' stronghold near Indanan township on southern Jolo Island.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen freed

Red Cross worker Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba without ransom Thursday then demanded that troops withdraw from five detachments in Indanan and nearby Parang townships to allow negotiations for the possible release of Notter and Vagni, Jolo Vice Gov. Lady Anne Sahidulla said.

Gordon urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to order the troops to pull back, expressing fears that the militants could resort to beheadings to humiliate the president, who is celebrating her 62nd birthday Sunday. Abu Sayyaf militants often choose important dates to mock officials, he said.

The militants beheaded an American tourist on southern Basilan Island in June 2001 as an "Independence Day" gift to Arroyo. A year earlier, they decapitated two male school teachers, also in Basilan, during the birthday of then President Joseph Estrada.

"I hope that this alleged plan by the Abu Sayyaf of offering a mean gift won't happen," Jolo Gov. Sakur Tan told Radio DZBB. "They should instead gift us with the freedom of two very healthy hostages."

The International Committee of the Red Cross workers were kidnapped Jan. 15 after inspecting a Jolo jail water supply project.

Tan, who heads a provincial task force dealing with the hostage crisis, told The Associated Press that a limited withdrawal of government forces surrounding an Abu Sayyaf stronghold near Indanan could be considered, especially if the militants release one more hostage, to allow fresh negotiations.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said a limited military pullout can be discussed but he ruled out an earlier Abu Sayyaf demand for troops to withdraw from entire towns in predominantly Muslim Jolo, adding the militants could take over those areas and launch more kidnappings.

Pakistanis mourn victims of mosque bombing

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Hundreds of people headed to a Pakistani sports field Monday to mourn the victims of a suicide bombing that killed 26 and wounded dozens at a crowded Shiite mosque—a gathering that itself raised security fears.

Mourners walked through metal detectors and were physically searched before lining up for prayers at the soccer (football) field near the mosque that was attacked Sunday, local television footage showed.

Militants have often targeted funeral congregations in the U.S.-allied country, where violence has spread far beyond the Afghan border region where al-Qaida and the Taliban thrive.

A little-known group believed linked to the Taliban claimed responsibility for the Sunday mosque attack in Chakwal city, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of the capital, Islamabad. Pakistan also has a history of sectarian violence, often involving Sunni extremists targeting minority Shiite Muslims.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lanka says war's end near, 453 rebels killed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lanka military vowed Monday to quickly wipe out the Tamil Tigers after the rebels suffered at least 453 dead and were pushed into a small "no-fire" zone crowded with tens of thousands of civilians. A total of 2,127 civilians, including 919 children, fled to government-controlled areas late Sunday after the military captured the last stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that was outside of the "no-fire" zone, a military statement said. "LTTE's days numbered as troops make final move to free civilian hostages," said a second statement on the military's Web site. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said Monday that 453 rebel bodies from three days of fighting have been recovered, up from 420 a day earlier.

Sherpa sets out to climb Mt. Everest for 19th time

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Sherpa guide who holds the record for most climbs up Mount Everest set off Monday on a new expedition to scale the world's highest mountain for a 19th time. Appa, who like most Sherpas goes by only one name, flew out of the capital, Katmandu, with his team Monday for the small airstrip at Lukla, from where they will trek to Everest's base camp and spend a few days acclimatizing and preparing for their summit bid in May. "Everest is not easy to climb, but after scaling the summit so many times, I am more confident and experienced," Appa said. "It should not be too difficult but I have to always be careful." He first climbed the 29,085-foot (8,850-meter) summit in 1989 and has done so almost every year since. His closest rival is fellow Sherpa guide Chhewang Nima, who has made 15 trips.

Australian gang leader charged in biker brawl

SYDNEY (AP)—The leader of a biker gang involved in a deadly brawl at Australia's busiest airport last month was arrested Monday and charged in connection to the fight, police and his lawyer said. Mahmoud "Mick" Hawi, leader of the Commacheros, is the sixth member of the gang arrested over the clash that left a Hell's Angels biker bleeding to death in front of terrified travelers at a domestic terminal at Sydney Airport. The slaying thrust long-simmering violence between biker gangs in Australia into the public spotlight, raised fears of widespread reprisal attacks and prompted a crack-down by authorities. Hawi, 28, was due to appear in court later Monday. His lawyer, John Korn, told reporters Hawi would ask to be released on bail.

World

Strong earthquake hits central Italy; 16 dead

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck central Italy early Monday, killing at least 16 people, collapsing buildings and leaving thousands of people homeless, officials and news reports said.

Officials said the death toll was likely to rise as rescue crews made their way through the debris. Firefighters aided by dogs were trying to rescue people from crumbled homes, including a student dormitory where half a dozen students remained trapped, RAI state TV reported.

A student who was not identified told RAI they were awakened by the quake and ran down the stairs of the dorm before the roof collapsed.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude of the quake was 6.3, though Italy's National Institute of Geophysics put it at 5.8.

The quake struck about 70 miles (110 kilometers) northeast of Rome at 3:32 a.m. local time (0132 GMT), officials said. The Civil Protection Department said the epicenter was near the city of L'Aquila, in the mountainous Abruzzo region.

By early morning, the death toll stood at 16, including five children, with some 30 people unaccounted for, the ANSA news agency reported, citing the Civil Protection Department. The town of Castelnovo appeared particularly hard hit, with five of the 16 dead there.

"It's the worst tragedy since the start of the millennium," said Guido Bertolaso, the head of the Civil Protection Department.

Residents and rescue workers were hauling away debris from collapsed buildings by hand while bloodied victims waited to be tended to in hospital hallways.

"We left as soon as we felt the first tremors," said Antonio D'Ostilio, 22,



Firefighters help a woman out of a crumbled home in the city of L'Aquila, after a strong earthquake rocked central Italy, early Monday, April 6, 2009.

as he stood on a street in L'Aquila with a huge suitcase piled with clothes he had thrown together. "We woke up all of a sudden and we immediately ran downstairs in our pajamas."

Nearby, firefighters successfully pulled a woman covered in dust from the debris of her four-story home. Rescue crews demanded quiet as they listened for signs of life from other people believed still trapped inside.

Agostino Miozzo, an official with the Civil Protection Department, said between 10,000 and 15,000 buildings were damaged.

"This means that the we'll have several thousand people to assist over the next few weeks and months," Miozzo told Sky Italia. "Our goal is to give shelter to all by tonight."

Four children died in L'Aquila after their houses collapsed, ANSA said. They quoted doctors at the main San Salvatore dell'Aquila hospital as saying there was nothing they could do for them.

ANSA said the dome of a church in L'Aquila collapsed, while the city's cathedral also suffered damages.

L'Aquila Mayor Massimo Cialente said some 100,000 people had left their homes and that many buildings in the city's historic center were damaged.

A series of jolts have struck the area over the past two days.

L'Aquila, a medieval city, lies in a valley surrounded by the Apennine mountains. It is the regional capital of the Abruzzo region, with about 70,000 inhabitants.

Bertolaso likened Monday's quake to the temblors that struck the central Umbria region on Sept. 26, 1997. That quake killed 10 people and devastated medieval buildings and churches, including Assisi's famed basilica, across the region.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico's death cult protests shrine destruction

MEXICO CITY (AP)—About 200 worshippers marched Sunday to protest the government's destruction of "Death Saint" shrines, saying Mexico's fight against drug cartels has veered into religious persecution. "We are believers, not criminals!" the protesters chanted as they marched from a gritty Mexico City neighborhood to the Metropolitan Cathedral downtown. At shrines, chapels and small churches across the country, tens of thousands of people worship the Death Saint, which is often depicted as a robe-covered skeleton resembling the Grim Reaper. It is popular with drug traffickers, and soldiers often find shrines to the saint during raids on cartel safe houses. But in crime-ridden neighborhoods, people of all walks of life believe the "Santa Muerte" protects against violent or untimely deaths.

Dubai: Chechen leader's ally behind assassination

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The assassination of a Chechen renegade—the first reported political killing in this glitzy city—was masterminded by a close ally of Chechnya's president, Dubai authorities said Sunday, calling on Russia to untie "the knot of this crime." The allegation could have broad implications for President Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel now closely allied with the Kremlin and its campaign to quell a 14-year insurrection in Chechnya. One of his bitter foes, Sulim Yamadayev, was gunned down March 28 outside a busy residential complex along Dubai's shoreline. His slaying was the latest assassination targeting Chechen renegades in and outside of Russia.

Parents to visit detained US journalist in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The parents of an American journalist imprisoned in Iran will be allowed to visit their daughter Monday, and her case is to be reviewed by a court that normally handles security threats, their lawyer said Sunday. Reza Saberi and his wife, Akiko, arrived in Iran early Sunday and met with authorities at Evin prison who gave them permission to see their daughter, Roxana, during Monday's weekly visitation period, said the lawyer, Abdolshamad Khorramshahi. Iranian prosecutors have issued a formal indictment against Roxana Saberi, Khorramshahi said, but he has not yet seen the charges and probably will not for several weeks under Iran's court procedures. Saberi's case will be reviewed by the Revolutionary Court, probably next month, Khorramshahi said. He had no further details. The court usually handles cases involving threats to state security.

Obama outlines sweeping goal of nuclear-free world

PRAGUE (AP)—Declaring the future of mankind at stake, President Barack Obama on Sunday said all nations must strive to rid the world of nuclear arms and that the U.S. had a "moral responsibility" to lead because no other country has used one.

A North Korean rocket launch upstaged Obama's idealistic call to action, delivered in the capital of the Czech Republic, a former satellite of the Soviet Union. But Obama dismissed those who say the spread of nuclear weapons, "the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War," cannot be checked.

"This goal will not be reached quickly—perhaps not in my lifetime," he told a cheering crowd of more than 20,000 in the historic square outside the Prague Castle gates. We "must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, 'Yes, we can.'"

Few experts think it's possible to completely eradicate nuclear weapons, and many say it wouldn't be a good idea even if it could be done. Even backward nations such as North Korea have shown they can develop bombs, given enough time.

But a program to drastically cut the world atomic arsenal carries support from scientists and lions of the foreign policy world. Obama embraced that step as his first goal and chose as the venue for his address a nation that peacefully threw off communism and helped topple the Soviet Union, despite its nuclear power.

But he said his own country, with its huge arsenal and its history using two atomic bombs against Japan in 1945, had to lead the world. He said the U.S. has a "moral responsibility" to start taking steps now.

"To reduce our warheads and stockpiles, we will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Russians this year," he promised.

The nuclear-free cause is more potent in Europe than in the United States, where even Democratic politicians such as Obama must avoid being labeled as soft or naive if they endorse it. Still, Obama said he would resubmit a proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification. The pact was signed by President Bill Clinton but rejected by the Senate in 1999.

US law fights submarine-like boats hauling cocaine

BOGOTA (AP)—It's a game played out regularly on the high seas off Colombia's Pacific coast: A U.S. Navy helicopter spots a vessel the size of a humpback whale gliding just beneath the water's surface.

A Coast Guard ship dispatches an armed team to board the small, submarine-like craft in search of cocaine. Crew members wave and jump into the sea to be rescued, but not before they open flood valves and send the fiberglass hulk and its cargo into the deep.

Colombia has yet to make a single arrest in such scuttlings because the evidence sinks with the so-called semi-submersible.

A new U.S. law and proposed leg-

islation in Colombia aim to thwart what has become South American traffickers' newest preferred means of getting multi-ton loads to Mexico and Central America.

Twelve people have been arrested under the Drug Trafficking Vessel Interdiction Act of 2008 since it went into effect in October. It outlaws such unregistered craft plying international waters "with the intent to evade detection." Crew members are subject to up to 15 years in prison.

"It's very likely a game-changer," said Jay Bergman, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's regional director, based in Colombia. "You don't get a get-out-of-jail free card anymore."

Blubbery 'researchers' lend fin to climate science

TROLL RESEARCH STATION, Antarctica (AP)—Into the Antarctic enigma, the puzzle of a place with too few researchers chasing too many climate mysteries, slowly waddles the elephant seal.

The fat-snouted pinniped, two ugly tons of blubber and roar, is plunging to its usual frigid depths these days in the service of climate science, and of scientists' budgets.

"It would take years and millions and millions of dollars for a research ship to do what they're doing," Norwegian scientist Kim Holmen said of the instrument-equipped seals, whose long-distance swims and 1,000-foot

(300-meter) dinnertime dives for squid are giving investigators valuable data about a key piece of southern ocean.

Climatologists and others say the icy continent has been monitored too thinly for too long in a warming world. Weather stations, glacier movement detectors and research treks over the ice are too few and far between.

"We're monitoring routinely a small portion of the continent. I'd say 1 percent," said David Holland, an Antarctic expert at New York University.

The reason to worry is clear: If all the land ice here melted, it would raise ocean levels 187 feet (57 meters) worldwide.

Overdrive

2010 Kia Soul: Built for city streets, not potholes

By **WARREN BROWN**
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK—This city is a traffic nightmare painted yellow—the hue of aggressively driven taxicabs that dominate its many ruined streets.

It partly explains why Kia Motors chose Brickell Island, a celeb-heavy community in Miami, for the North American introduction earlier this month of its 2010 Kia Soul urban wagon.

Brickell Island is young and hip. New York is not as young, not as hip.

But the biggest difference is that Brickell Island has smooth, friendly streets. New York City has pitifully few of those.

That's too bad. In many ways, the new Kia Soul is the perfect urban wagon. It's small, stretching a bit more than 13 feet. It fits easily into tight spaces, thus relieving the angst of most city parking. It

is wonderfully utilitarian.

We couldn't go to Brickell. But my wife, Mary Anne, and I used the Kia Soul to carry several bulky items, including a couple of floor lamps, up here from Virginia to help a daughter move into a new apartment.

The Kia Soul is wonderfully maneuverable, capable of U-turns on narrow streets without touching a curb left or right.

But therein lies the rub, bump, occasional squeak, rattle and grind. The monstrous things New Yorkers call "streets" are brutal traps for lightweight (2,559.6 pounds), tiny, front-wheel-drive city wagons such as the Kia Soul.

When its standard 18-inch diameter wheels strike potholes, the Soul shudders, as do the spirits and bodies of its driver and passengers. The discomfort is palpable and truly upsetting.

Kia obviously made a com-

promise here—trading weight in the engineering and design of suspension components, probably in a bid to increase fuel economy and control production costs, at the expense of a more comfortable ride and better handling over rough roads.

True story: When we left this city's mean streets and entered the relative surface calm of the New Jersey Turnpike, my wife breathed a sigh of relief. "Good Lord!" she exclaimed. "Does Kia really believe that the streets in America are paved with gold? ... This suspension is horrible."



The new Kia Soul is the perfect urban wagon. It's small, fits easily into tight spaces, and utilitarian.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We would like to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed during our most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of kindness did much to calm the ache in our hearts. In time, it will lessen our pain as memories gently turn to smiles.

We would also like to thank Pauline Dela Cruz & Pete Santos, Rick & Akiko Mafnas, Edward & Sharon Dela Cruz, Gus & Tes Evangelista, Gerald Naputi, Chris & Bobbie Aguon, Bill & Dora Reyes, Johanna Vaughn & Bob Badingo, Mike & Vivian Pangelinan, Gina Palacios, John & Billie Lei, Francella White, Terrence & Almadine Manglona, Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, SFC Gerald Emery, 1Lt Ton Bamba, American Red Cross, Pacific Sky Travel, 1st-101st Aviation Regiment, E Co., 100th, 442nd Inf., C. Co., 1-502nd Inf.

Our families and friends in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in Salem, Oregon, and in the CNMI.

Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

*From Tyrone Camacho Mafnas
and the Family of the late*

*Rosalyn Connie
Alepuyo
Sanchez Mafnas*



NUTS & BOLTS

By **WARREN BROWN**
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

Kia should have put as much work into the Soul's suspension design as it did in the wagon's hip stuff, such as lights in front speaker enclosures that blink in rhythm with music played on the sound system.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

Good ride and excellent handling on smooth roads. Marginal ride comfort and vehicle handling on bumpy streets. Highway acceleration is competent, meaning that the Soul can change lanes without venturing into eternity for its driver and passengers.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

"Is that the Scion xD?" No. Kindly read the badge. It's the Kia Soul, specifically the Soul!—which is more upscale than the Soul Base and Soul+, but less compelling than the top-of-the-line Soul Sport, which probably has a better suspension than the tested Soul!

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Soul is a compact, front-engine, front-wheel drive urban wagon with four side doors and a rear hatch.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The 2-liter, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder engine in the tested Kia Soul develops 142 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 137

foot-pounds of torque at 4,600 revolutions per minute. The engine is linked to a four-speed automatic transmission. A five-speed manual gearbox is available.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. It can carry several bulky packages and long items—exact payload capacity is unavailable at this writing. Hauling capability is minimal. Fuel tank holds 11.5 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

The Environmental Protection Agency says the Soul gets 24 miles per gallon in the city and 31 miles per gallon on the highway. But we averaged 22 miles per gallon city and 29 miles per gallon highway.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes ventilated front-discs and solid rear-disc brakes with antilock protection; side and head airbags; and, thankfully, electronic stability control.

PRICE

The 2010 Kia Soul with automatic transmission has a base price of \$17,900. Dealer invoice price on that model is \$16,775. Price as tested is \$18,595, including a \$695 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$17,470. Prices are sourced from Kia; Edmunds.com; and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

A very decent urban runner. Just keep it off of lousy roads.

Life & Style

Madonna's African adoptions part of growing trend

LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna's efforts to adopt two youngsters from Malawi have put her in the media spotlight. But she isn't alone: a growing number of Americans are bringing home children from Africa as countries like China and Russia cut back on adoptions by foreigners.

The increase—particularly in Ethiopia—comes as the AIDS epidemic ravaging the continent leaves more orphans in impoverished countries without relatives to care for them.

Americans adopted 1,725 Ethiopian children in the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2008, about 70 percent of all U.S. adoptions from Africa, according to the State Department. The year before, 1,255

Ethiopian children were adopted by Americans.

While experts don't attribute Africa's growing popularity among adoptive parents to a celebrity factor, they do say high-profile adoptions by the likes of Madonna and Angelina Jolie have raised awareness of the availability of orphans on the continent.

"One of the good things about the Madonna adoption or Angelina Jolie, those adoptions brought the need to the attention of Europeans or Americans," said Thomas DiFilipo, president of the Joint Council on International Children's Services. "And it brought the possibility (of adopting in Africa) to people's attention."

Wes Stout, 41, who with his wife, Kristin, 37, has adopted two

Madonna leaves Malawi after adoption setback

A private Jet with U.S. pop star Madonna on board takes off from Lilongwe International Airport, Malawi, Sunday, April 5, 2009.



LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna left Malawi on her private jet Sunday after being rebuffed in an attempt to adopt a second child from the poor African nation, air traffic control officials said.

Police roadblocks prevented reporters from approaching the airport but one police officer said Madonna carried David, her adopted Malawian son, up the steps of the Gulfstream jet.

It was bound for London's Gatwick Airport, air traffic officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

The singer's lawyer has said that she will appeal against a court ruling that she is not eligible to adopt a three year old orphan girl, Chifundo "Mercy" James, be-

cause she hasn't lived in Malawi.

Madonna first spotted Mercy during a 2006 visit to an orphanage where she found David. Then, unlike now, she was able to leave the country with the infant and the adoption was completed last year. But now Madonna is a single mother after her split from film director Guy Ritchie. Her attempts to adopt a second child caused outrage among some child welfare groups.

In a ruling Friday, Judge Esme Chombo said Madonna did not meet Malawi's strict definition of "resident." Noting that Madonna had last visited Malawi in 2008, the judge said the pop star "jetted into the country during the weekend just days prior to the hearing of this application."

Malawi requires prospective parents to

live in the country for 18 to 24 months while child welfare authorities assess their suitability—a rule that was bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London in 2006. Madonna has two other children, Lourdes, 12, and Rocco, 8.

No date has been set for a court hearing to appeal the judge's ruling.

Madonna threw a farewell party Saturday at the luxury lodge where she was staying. Traditional dancers entertained guests including government officials and staff from Madonna's Raising Malawi charity.

The charity helps feed, educate and provide medical care for some of Malawi's more than 1 million orphans, half of whom have lost parents to AIDS.



US pop star Madonna during her visit to Salaza village near Lilongwe, Malawi, Friday April 3 2009.

children from Ethiopia, agrees.

"I give some of the popularity of Ethiopia to her celebrity influence," he said of Jolie, whose daughter, Zahara, was adopted from the north African country in 2005, the same year the Stouts adopted their daughter, 3-year-old Kyla.

At that time, the Stouts' wait

was less than a year. When they brought their son, 9-month-old Solomon, home six weeks ago, it was after an adoption process that took two years.

"The popularity soared," said Stout of Redwood City, Calif.

And, "while in the end the need is great, for most people who adopt, they are not just adopting to save a life," he said. "They are adopting to start a family and that's an important point."

Rich foreigners have been adopting children from poorer nations for decades. Mia Farrow, now the mother of 14, began adopting children from Asia in 1973, with an orphan from the Vietnam War. In addition to her daughter Zahara, Jolie adopted her sons Maddox and Pax from Cambodia and Vietnam.

But critics have slammed Madonna's efforts to adopt a second child from Malawi, accusing her of acting like a rich "bully" and using her money and status to fast-track the adoption process. Madonna left Malawi on her private jet Sunday after being rebuffed in an attempt to adopt a second child

from the poor African nation.

Many adoption agencies and child rights activists also argue it is preferable for children to be taken care of by relatives or their communities, with foreign adoptions allowed only as a last resort.

Others say that isn't always realistic. "Ideally more local adoptions would be best, but people aren't coming forward and if life is better out there then they should take it," said Zoe Cohen, a private adoption consultant in South Africa.

And while adoptions from Africa have risen, the continent still accounts for only about 14 percent of overseas adoptions by Americans. According to the State Department, 2,399 visas were issued to African children adopted by Americans last year, out of 17,438 adoptions from abroad.

Adoptions overseas have plummeted overall in the U.S., dropping 12 percent last year to the lowest level since 1999. That's due to developments in China, Russia, Guatemala and other longtime sources of orphans that have reduced the

number of foreign adoptions.

China accounted for the biggest decline, dropping out of the top spot last year. It was replaced by Guatemala, which almost certainly will lose that status in 2009 because of a freeze on new adoptions imposed because of fraud allegations.

Elsewhere in the West, adoptions from Africa have grown, notably in France, where the continent accounted for nearly a third of the 3,271 overseas adoptions last year. By comparison, only a handful of African children were adopted in Britain in 2007, the last year statistics were available. Most youngsters came from Ethiopia and Nigeria—seven from Ethiopia and six from Nigeria.

Orphans usually are taken in by their extended families in Africa, but AIDS and other diseases have taken a toll on those who might have traditionally provided support. In villages across the continent, frail elderly grandmothers do their best to care for children, but many end up in orphanages or on the streets.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

the family of the late
Jeffrey Nakatsukasa Maratita

February 9, 1971 - April 15, 2008

would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved.

Mass will be offered at San Antonio Church.

April 7, 2009 (Tue)	6:00 p.m.	April 12, 2009 (Sun)	7:00 a.m.
April 8, 2009 (Wed)	No Mass		& 9:00 a.m.
April 9, 2009 (Thur)	7:00 p.m.	April 13, 2009 (Mon)	6:00 p.m.
April 10, 2009 (Fri)	No Mass	April 14, 2009 (Tue)	6:00 p.m.
April 11, 2009 (Sat)	7:00 p.m.	April 15, 2009 (Wed)	6:00 p.m.

On the last day of Mass, dinner will follow at the residence of Thomas Maratita in Koblerville. Your presence and prayer will be greatly appreciated.

Juliana Dela Rosa and Children
Thomas Maratita and Family



Carrie Underwood wins ACM entertainer of the year

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Carrie Underwood captured the entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, the first female act to win the honor since the Dixie Chicks did it back in 2000 and only the seventh to do so in the show's nearly four-decade existence.

"I've had a lot of good moments in the past four years. This one takes the cake," the tearful former "American Idol" champ said. "Thank you God, thank you fans, thank you to ACM for nominating me in the first place. I never thought I'd be nominated and never thought I'd win. I'm shaking. I don't know what to say."

With the win, Underwood, who also won top female vocalist, broke Kenny Chesney's four-year win streak and denied him the chance to tie Alabama's five years of dominance in the category. Besides Underwood, the other female acts to win included Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, Shania Twain and the Dixie Chicks. Chesney kissed Underwood as she walked up to accept the honor.

Another female dominating not only country music but the entire music industry, Taylor Swift, won album of the year for her sophomore disc "Fearless." Both of Swift's albums have topped the 3 million mark—a rare feat in today's music industry. She's connected with fans both young and old for her intensely personal songs, which she writes usually on her own or with another writer.

"A lot of people who know me

know if you talk to me more than 5 minutes I'm probably going to write a song about you," Swift said, as she proceeded to thank characters in her songs such as Tim McGraw and Romeo.

Other winners included Jamey Johnson, Sugarland and Julianne Hough, but the evening's most memorable moments came via the performances.

Trace Adkins performed "'Til the Last Shot's Fired," a somber salute to U.S. troops, with the West Point Glee Club in honor of the servicemen and women. The performance was introduced by Lt. Andrew Kinard, who had been wounded. He told the crowd, "As you listen to this song, please consider that it's not about the war, it's about the warrior."

John Rich's angry anthem "Shut-tin' Detroit Down" also stirred the crowd.

"I'd like to dedicate this song tonight to all the hard-working, tax-paying Americans from coast to coast who love this country as much as I do," Rich said to the audience while holding a guitar tagged with the sticker "Made in the U.S.A."

"We wrote this song specifically for you," he said before launching into his searing song that feeds into taxpayer resentment about the bailouts on Wall Street.

Other performances included teen sensation Miley Cyrus, dancing atop a high staircase on stage; Heidi Newfield singing "Johnny and June," inspired by the late Johnny Cash and June Carter



Singer Carrie Underwood poses with her awards for Top Female Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year backstage at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Cash, around an appropriate ring of fire; and Underwood in a burgundy dress so overwhelming that it took up most of the stage.

"Can I borrow that?" host Reba McEntire quipped afterward.

Newcomer Johnson beat out veterans like George Strait and Brad Paisley in nabbing the night's first honor, song of the year for his poignant hit about an old man looking back on his life, "In Color."

"Thanks to my band for going in

on an off day and producing an off record," Johnson quipped in a brief acceptance speech.

Adkins also won single of the year for his heartfelt hit "You're Gonna Miss This." The deep-voiced singer said the song, about how people want to grow up and move on with life when they should slow down and enjoy the moment more, was very personal to him, but he didn't think others would relate to it. When his label said they were going to release it as a single, he said, "Go

ahead. Nobody's going play it."

"I'm glad I'm an idiot," Adkins cracked. "Thank you very much."

Swift had four nominations going into Sunday's show, but got a special honor as McEntire presented her with a special ACM Crystal Milestone Award for bringing so many young people to country music.

Sugarland broke Brooks & Dunn's lock on the vocal duo award, while "Dancing with the Stars" champ Hough took the top new artist trophy during Sunday's Academy of Country Music Awards.

Strait and Brad Paisley led all nominees with six. Paisley was linked up by video from Nashville, where his wife Kimberly Williams-Paisley is expecting their second child, and accepted the trophy for male vocalist of the year from there.

"I wish I could be there but I didn't want to take the chance of missing the birth of our next child. I hope you understand," he said.

Jamie Foxx introduced Strait's performance of "Troubadour," and joked that the country scene was getting more diverse.

"Things are changing," Foxx said, mentioning his repeat appearance at the ACMs and Darius Rucker's success on the country charts. "(An) African-American singing country. Things are changing. Got a black man running the country. Things are changing. ... I mean what's next, white people going to Tyler Perry movies?"

The show aired live from the MGM Grand on CBS.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of our dearly beloved

*† Verena Marie
Tudela Cabrera*

want to express our deep and profound appreciation to our family, relatives and friends for your support during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness, prayer and thoughtfulness have deeply touched us more than any words of thanks can ever be expressed. Please be assured that you will always be remembered.

To all those who came to join us in the daily mass offerings and nightly rosaries. Special thanks to Fr. Noli and Fr. Joe Billotti for celebrating the masses of intentions for our beloved daughter Verena Marie. To Kristo Rai Choir and the altar servers, thank you. To Frank Cabrera, thank you for your guidance and support. Also to Fr. Ambet, Fr. Manny and Fr. Nonoy thank you for your presence during the funeral mass. Special thanks to our Techas Nan Che Cabrera, Rita C. Guerrero and Nicolas Palacios thank you for leading us in prayer.

We also want to acknowledge Kagman High School and especially to the Kagman High School Class of 2007/2008; CNMI Youth Congress; NMC and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

To all those who have traveled from all distances to be with us during our time of sorrow and most especially to all those who have kept our dearly beloved Verena in your prayers.

Your kindness and generosity will forever be in our hearts, and we pray that our Dear Lord, will continue to bless and shower each one of us with His graces as we continue to live on one day at a time.

Thank you and Dangkulo Na Si Yuus Ma'ase.

*Joaquin Mitch I. Pangelinan/Carmen Tudela Cabrera
Children and Family*

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

**ANICETO BENIGNO
TEREGEYO TAITANO**

Fondly known as Ceto

December 2, 1988 – April 1, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his loved ones who have gone before him.

Maternal Grandfather: Joaquin Teregeyo

Paternal Grandparents: Juan Lisua
& Carmen Teregeyo Taitano

He will live on the hearts and memories of those who love him dearly:

Grandmother: Ana Sablan Teregeyo

Mother: Geraldine Sablan Teregeyo

Sisters: Gerana Lynn S. Teregeyo and Chantel Consolacion T. Taitano

Father: Ignacio Teregeyo Taitano (Florida)

Half-Brother: Otero and AJ Taitano

Maternal Reared Parents: Mr./Mrs. Gil M. and Irene T. San Nicolas

Vincent D. Camacho and Catherine Anne Sablan Teregeyo

Mr./Mrs. Dennis and Jerilyn T. Teregeyo

Derek Joaquin S. Teregeyo, Jr.

Donald Lee S. Teregeyo

He is further survived by the love, kinship and friendship of many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

On Wednesday, April 8, 2009, his remains will leave CHC Chapel at 7 o'clock in the morning enroute to our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respect. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m., followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

**Mrs. Ana Sablan Teregeyo, Geraldine Sablan Teregeyo,
Children and Family**

'Fast & Furious' accelerates to \$72.5M opening



In this film publicity still released by Universal Pictures, Paul Walker, left, and Vin Diesel, are shown in a scene from "Fast & Furious."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Fast & Furious" left the competition in the dust with a \$72.5 million opening weekend, the best so far this year.

That topped last weekend's \$59.3 million debut for DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens," which slipped to second place with \$33.5 million, raising its 10-day total to \$105.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal's "Fast & Furious" also raced to a record for April debuts, easily passing the previous best of \$42.2 million set in 2003 by "Anger Management."

It was a blockbuster opening more customary to summer. But Hollywood has been extending its busy season more and more by placing summer-style flicks earlier in the year.

"It's summer time in April," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers. "We've seen the summer season stretch from what used to be Memorial Day through Labor Day, then the first of May through Labor Day. Now maybe with 'Fast & Furious,' it's going to be early April as the beginning of summer."

The weekend's other new wide release, Miramax's 1980s nostalgia comedy "Adventureland," debuted at No. 6 with \$6

1. "Fast & Furious," \$72.5 million.
2. "Monsters vs. Aliens," \$33.5 million.
3. "The Haunting in Connecticut," \$9.6 million.
4. "Knowing," \$8.1 million.
5. "I Love You, Man," \$7.9 million.
6. "Adventureland," \$6 million.
7. "Duplicity," \$4.3 million.
8. "Race to Witch Mountain," \$3.4 million.
9. "12 Rounds," \$2.3 million.
10. "Sunshine Cleaning," \$1.9 million.

million. The movie stars Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart as summer workers at a second-rate theme park in the late '80s.

The fourth installment of the "Fast and the Furious" street-racing franchise brings back the four stars of the 2001 original—Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster. The new movie has Diesel's fugitive driver and Walker's undercover cop reteaming for more illegal races as they take on a murderous drug lord.

The reunion paid off for distributor Universal, which also pulled in \$30.1 million in 32 other countries where "Fast & Furious" was playing.

The original was a surprise hit, but the franchise was slowly running out of gas after the sequel "2 Fast 2 Furious," which starred Walker. Part three, "The Fast and

the Furious: Tokyo Drift," had a new cast and took in a solid but unremarkable \$62.5 million over its entire run.

But "Tokyo Drift" ended with a cameo by Diesel, sparking interest in reviving the series with the "Fast & Furious" reunion. "The marketing campaign let everyone know it's not what you've seen before. It's the original cast," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "For the audience, the first main reason to see the movie was the action, then the car racing, then Vin Diesel."

"Fast & Furious" paced Hollywood to another huge weekend, with overall revenues at \$160 million, up 68 percent from the same period last year.

For the year, domestic revenues are running at a record pace of \$2.57 billion, up 14.5 percent from 2008's, according to Media By Numbers. Factoring in 2009's higher ticket prices, movie attendance is running 12.8 percent ahead of last year's.

"The title of this movie perfectly describes the box office year of 2009. Fast and furious," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Cleveland looks ahead to next Rock Hall ceremony



This Jan. 14, 2009 file photo shows the band Metallica, from left, James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Kirk Hammett and Robert Trujillo after a news conference in New York.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich pointed up at thousands of rock fans in the public seating sections at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's 2009 inductions.

"This is all about all of you people up in the balcony. Remember that!" Ulrich shouted, drawing a loud cheer.

The heart of rock 'n' roll was in Cleveland on Saturday, and the city, which hosted the induction ceremony for the first time since 1997, won't have to wait long for it to return. Officials expect to have the annual event in Cleveland every three years.

Saturday's ceremony also marked the first time the event was open to the public, and the Rock Hall made sure to give access to about 5,000 ticket buyers. Past inductions, including those in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria ballroom, only had room in the audience for VIPs,

inductees and invited guests.

The city of Cleveland helped Saturday's ceremony in a big way, refurbishing and decorating the downtown Public Auditorium built in 1922.

"I think it's nice for Cleveland," said hip-hop music label and fashion entrepreneur Russell Simmons, as he walked in on the red carpet. "They fought to get it here. They deserve it. It's good for the people of Cleveland. It should be here every year."

Joel Peresman, CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, said the Public Auditorium was a fitting site because of its own rock history, hosting early U.S. performances of the Beatles, Rolling Stones and others.

"To have fans be able to come to this event, which is something we've never been able to do before, is great," Peresman said. "It's incredibly successful, and we're looking to come back

every three years."

Since the 1950s, when Cleveland radio personality Alan Freed popularized the term rock 'n' roll, the city has been widely recognized for a passion for rock music.

The New York-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation was created 1983 and selected Cleveland as home of the Rock Hall in a national competition.

Metallica earned top billing in Saturday's eclectic 2009 class that included rap pioneers Run-DMC, virtuoso guitarist Jeff Beck, soul singer Bobby Womack and rhythm and blues vocal group Little Anthony and the Imperials.

Drummer DJ Fontana and the late bassist Bill Black—both of Elvis Presley's backup band—and keyboardist Spooner Oldham made it in the sidemen category. Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson was inducted as an early influence.

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NOW SHOWING



Fast & Furious

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When a crime brings them back to L.A., fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Conner. But as they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel.



Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynold's car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantumium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.



The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:25

Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx
 Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.



Knowing

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Race To Witch Mountain

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:40
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds
 Action, Adventure • Rated PG



The Last House On The Left

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio
 Horror • Rated R



Watchmen

Friday 4:00 7:05 10:15
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:05

Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup
 Action, Adventure • Rated R

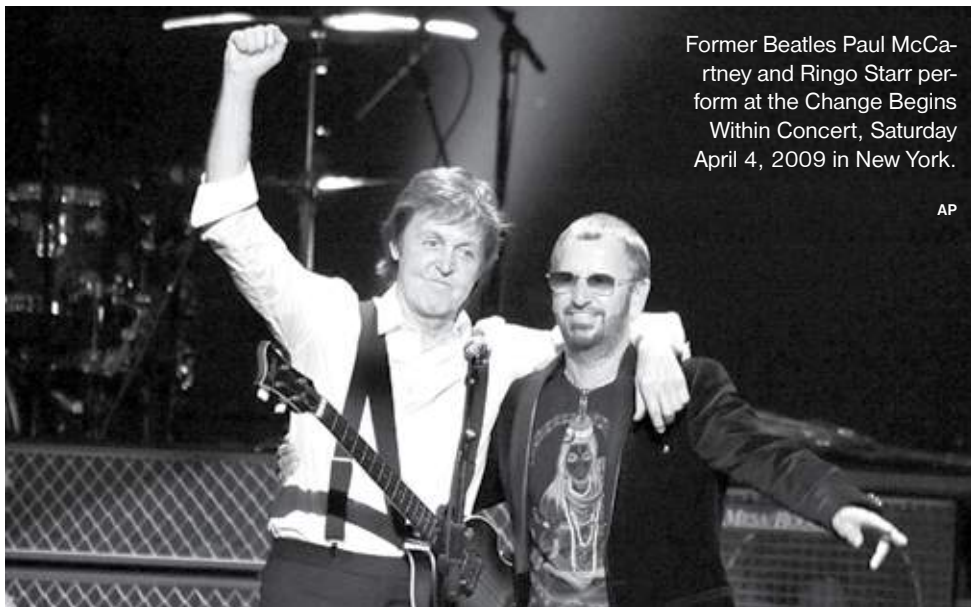
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BEST SELLERS

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Nonfiction**Outliers**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: \$27.99) An exploration of the background of high achievers.**Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man**, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: \$23.99) The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.**House of Cards**, by William D. Cohan (Doubleday: \$27.95) A narrative chronicling the fall of Bear Stearns and the following calamity on Wall Street.**The Lost City of Z**, by David Grann (Doubleday: \$27.50) British explorer Col. Percy Fawcett's quest to find an ancient Amazonian society.**The Yankee Years**, by Joe Torre (Doubleday: \$26.95) Behind the scenes of what it really took to try to keep the Yankees on top.**A Lion Called Christian**, by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall (Broadway: \$21.95) The relationship among two men and a pet lion adopted from Harrods and set free in Africa.**The Last Lecture**, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.**Rubies in the Orchard**, by Lynda Resnick with Francis Wilkinson (Broadway Business: \$24.95) A marketing guru shares her strategies.**Lincoln**, by Ronald C. White Jr. (Random House: \$35) A biography of the 16th president, including analysis of his principal speeches and writings.**The Secret**, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets, distilled.**Fiction****The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: \$22). A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.**Eclipse**, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.**Fool**, by Christopher Moore (William Morrow: \$26.99). King Lear's jester sets out to save the kingdom.**Breaking Dawn**, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$22.99). The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.**The Associate**, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95). A law school grad's dark secret is used to blackmail him into stealing files from a law firm, putting his life in danger.**Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw**, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: \$12.95). Greg's dad enlists him in sports to toughen him up.**The Women**, by T.C. Boyle (Viking: \$27.95). Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told through the experiences of the four women who loved him.**Cutting for Stone**, by Abraham Verghese (Knopf: \$26.95). A twin brother's journey from revolution in Ethiopia to a New York City hospital.**Handle With Care**, by Jodi Picoult (Atria: \$27.95). A family is thrown into turmoil when they sue over their daughter's medical condition.**Corsair**, by Clive Cussler with Jack Du Brul (Putnam: \$27.95). The CIA sends pirate Juan Cabrillo to search for a missing U.S. official.

Former Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr perform at the Change Begins Within Concert, Saturday April 4, 2009 in New York.

AP

Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr reunite on stage

NEW YORK (AP)—An all-star concert on meditation brought Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr together for their first performance together in seven years.

The reunion of McCartney and Starr, the surviving members of the Beatles, was the highlight of the "Change Begins Within" concert on Saturday night. The event was held at Radio City Music Hall to benefit the David Lynch Foundation, which aims to teach at-risk youth meditation techniques.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Billy Shears," McCartney told the crowd, referring to the fictional character on the classic Beatles' album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," as Starr emerged and immediately launched into his part in the Beatles' classic "With a Little Help from My Friends."

McCartney and Starr last performed together in 2002 at the Concert for George, which honored former Beatles George Harrison at London's Royal Albert Hall a year after Harrison's death.

Saturday's concert, which also featured Sheryl Crow, Eddie Vedder, Donovan and others, ran for about four hours. But McCartney had thousands of fans on their feet as he hit the stage near the

show's end. Opening with a spirited version of "Drive My Car," he went through a generous selection of Beatles and Wings classics, from "Can't Buy Me Love" and "Let It Be" to "Jet" and "Band on the Run." McCartney remembered John Lennon by playing "Here Today," a song he wrote for the former Beatle, slain in 1980.

For the encore, McCartney was joined on stage by Donovan, Crow, Mike Love (of the Beach Boys), Vedder, Paul Horn, and of course, Starr on drums. After an epic version of "Cosmically Conscious," he launched into the crowd-pleasing "I Saw Her Standing There."

Other key moments of the night included an energetic cover of Queen's "Under Pressure" by Vedder and Ben Harper, while Crow paid tribute to Harrison with a harmonious version of his "My Sweet Lord."

Between the music, the night's stars talked about the power of meditation to overcome problems. Howard Stern said he has meditated for 37 years, told the crowd that he credits meditation for saving his mother from depression.

He was followed by Starr's three-song set. Starr introduced the Beatles song "Boys" by saying: "I've been playing this next song longer than Howard Stern has meditated."

Son of Ryan O'Neal arrested in LA on drug charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say the 24-year-old son of actors Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett has been arrested on a drug charge just months after he and his father were charged with drug possession.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says Redmond O'Neal was arrested Sunday on suspicion of bringing narcotics into a jail facility after admitting he was carrying drugs. He is being held on \$25,000 bail.



O'Neal

Whitmore says a deputy stopped O'Neal, who was at the jail giving a ride to a friend.

O'Neal was arrested in September with Ryan O'Neal and charged with felony methamphetamine possession. He was on probation for a previous drug conviction.

A phone message left for his attorney wasn't immediately returned.

The arrest was first reported by RadarOnline.com.

Talk show for Wanda Sykes

HOLLYWOOD—Emmy-winning actress and comedian Wanda Sykes will host a new Saturday late-night talk show on Fox this fall that will include commentary on hot-button issues, panel discussions and segments taped outside of the studio.

In its announcement Wednesday, the network did not specify a time slot, but the show likely will fill the 11 p.m. position now occu-

piated by "MADtv," which is departing in May.

This is Sykes' second show on Fox. Her first one, "Wanda at Large," went off the air in 2003 after 19 episodes.

"Yes, my relationship with Fox hasn't been the best, but if Rihanna can go back to Chris Brown, I can go back to Fox. Oprah tried to talk me out of it, but I think Fox has changed," Sykes said in a Fox news release.

Jazz musician Bud Shank dies in Tucson at 82

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Clifford "Bud" Shank, a flutist and alto saxophonist who worked with such famous acts as the Mamas and the Papas, has died. He was 82.

Shank died Thursday of pulmonary failure at his home in Tucson, according to his Web site and JazzTimes magazine. No phone numbers were listed for Shank's home.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Shank worked with saxophonist Charlie Barnet in North Carolina before moving to California in the 1940s. There, he played with trumpeter Shorty Rogers and then pianist Stan Kenton.

Shank was one of the first jazz musicians to

explore Brazilian music, and recorded a number of albums for World Pacific, a world music label, from the 1950s to the 1970s, according to JazzTimes.

During his career, Shank worked with Sergio Mendes and the Mamas and the Papas. His flute work is heard in the latter's song, "California Dreamin'." Shank reached the Billboard charts in 1966 with his album "Michelle," a collection of covers of pop hits.

More recently, Shank focused on his alto work and formed the Bud Shank Big Band in 2007. Shank was recording a new album in San Diego the day before he died.

Man gets the silent treatment for reasons he can't fathom

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Helene," refuses to speak to me for days or even weeks. When I try to find out why or talk to her, she ignores me. She has moved into another bedroom, which has become her own little domain. She refuses to have sex or even watch TV with me.



Dear Abby

I have no reason to believe Helene is cheating, and I am certainly not cheating on her. We are raising my son from a previous marriage, and sometimes I wonder if this is what is bugging her.

My ex-wife lives in another state, and we communicate only once in a while. My boy is a pre-teen, and Helene and I have had him since he was a baby. He considers her his "Mama," and she considers him her son.

I am very much in love with my wife, and I can't figure this out. Can people just fall out of love?

FREEZING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR FREEZING: Rarely. More often they are either pushed or lured away.

As much as you love your wife, I hope you realize that her behavior is both passive-aggressive and abusive. Could she have emotional problems? Whatever has caused her to withdraw, unless she's willing to talk things out like a mature adult, there is no way to fix the problem.

Your marriage is in serious trouble. It's time to consult a licensed marriage and family counselor. If your wife won't go, you should go alone.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our 23-year-old daughter, "Kristy," lives at home. She works full time and goes to school, but lives here with free room and board, cable TV, etc. She has been seeing a man for a month and now is spending two or three nights a week at "his place."

I am not unreasonable or naive, but I feel that because Kristy is living under my roof, she should live by my rules, which do not include sleeping over at some man's house after only one month of dating. To top it off, we have never met him, although we have asked several times to be introduced.

We know that Kristy is an adult, but I believe that as an adult she should have enough respect for us to refrain from spending the night at his place until she knows him better and we have at least met him. Am I being unreasonable?

My wife throws up her hands and says, "What can we do?" I believe parenting does not end at 18. I am not a prude, but this seems wrong to me. Any advice?

DAD IN DISTRESS

DEAR DAD: Your daughter is a self-supporting adult with a full-time job, so stop treating her like a child. It is her right to come and go as she pleases, but if she does, she should have a place of her own. That way she won't be obligated to introduce you to her men friends, some of whom might not feel ready to meet her father. It will give her some degree of privacy, and you can keep your illusions about your daughter intact.

Bottom line: It is your house. You and your wife have every right to make the rules and be comfortable in it. My advice is to suggest kindly to Kristy that all of you might be happier if she got an apartment.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

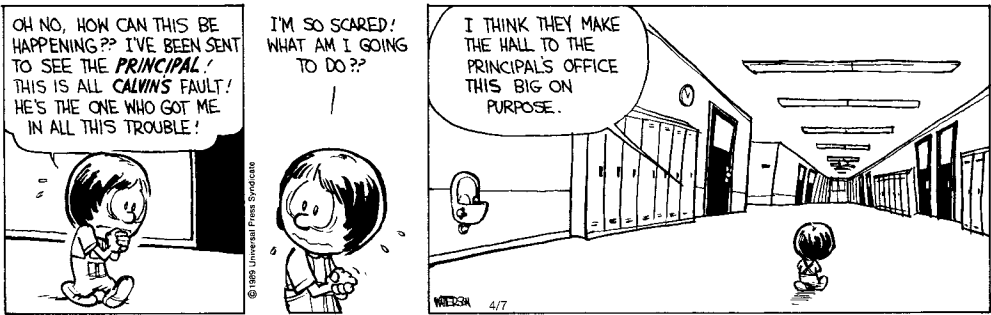
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

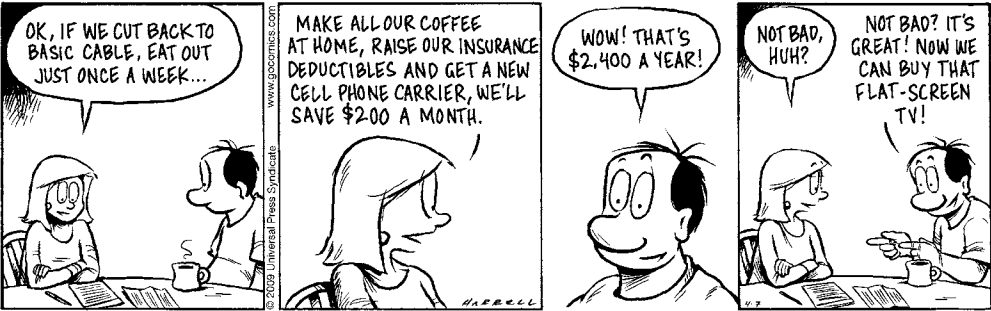
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Branch

5 Scoundrel

8 Break suddenly

12 Hebrew month

13 Bullring cry

14 Ringlet

15 Apportion (out)

16 CB kin

18 Nassau's island group

20 Mountain nymph

21 "The Da Vinci Code" author

22 Sky safety org.

23 Unkempt

26 German city

30 Noah's craft

31 Monkey suit

32 Back talk

33 "The Firm" author

36 Ballroom dance

38 Whammy

39 Has the ability

DOWN

1 Child of

2 Concept

3 Geometry or

4 Rye and pumpernickel

5 "Yankee Doodle" man

6 "Sad to say ..."

7 Obama, for ex.

8 Sacred beetle

9 Undraped

10 Met

11 Trudge

17 Wander

19 Spring time

22 Office transmission

23 Periodical, briefly

24 Mess up

25 Schuss

26 Drone

27 Einstein's birthplace

28 Cage component

29 Univ. transcript stat

31 April 15 payment

34 Scabbard

35 Captain's place

36 Pouch

37 Turkey's capital

39 Stop

40 Corned beef recipe

41 —

42 Just one of those things?

43 Concoct, in a way

44 Colored

45 N. Mex. neighbor

46 Lion's pride?

48 "See ya"

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	W	A	B	M	I	C	B	M
L	I	L	I	J	R	E	N	O
A	N	T	E	S	N	O	W	D
M	O	O	L	A	H	W	H	E
A	L	E	C	Y	E	W		
S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	D
R	I	V	A	R	I	E	S	L
O	P	E	C	S	N	O	W	P
R	H	O	G	N	A	R		
A	S	T	E	R	N	I	N	A
S	N	O	W	B	I	R	D	Y
K	I	N	E	C	I	A	E	T
S	P	E	D	E	M	S	R	E

Yesterday's answer 4-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Russell Crowe, 45; Jackie Chan, 55; Francis Ford Coppola, 70; David Frost, 70

Happy Birthday: You have to stay in control. Don't let uncertainty cause you to make fast and fatal decisions. Focus on who you are as well as your goals. Be clever, creative and cautious and you can work through any life-altering rough spots. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 24, 25, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may think you know what's heading your way but last-minute changes will flip things upside down, causing you to scramble. Stay calm and open your mind to ideas or suggestions being offered. Don't allow anyone to cost you financially. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't walk away from help being offered. It can make a difference in the outcome of a developing deal or negotiation. Someone is likely to be jealous of your skills or position. Correct any misconception. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give-and-take will be necessary. Someone with experience or seniority may stifle your plans. You can work around any situation you face if you are open and honest regarding your plans. A unique approach will gain approval. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Altering some of the conditions you currently live with will be a start and, with a couple of renovations, you should be able to accommodate your plans for future use of the space. Good fortune can be yours if you are adaptable. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get involved in activities you enjoy and you will develop friendships with people who can help you get ahead. Networking can be done successfully without venturing too far from home or work. Don't make promises you cannot keep. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Anxiety may get the better of you if you allow emotional matters to escalate. Let others be the ones to come across as erratic and out of control. Base your actions on facts and present alternatives that can benefit everyone. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make some extraordinary moves if you stay alert and take advantage of mistakes and mishaps. You cannot let your emotions get in the middle of a deal. Don't have misplaced sympathy for someone. Use your imagination and you will gain support. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The advice being offered by someone close may be given in good faith but it may not be valid. Do your own checking before you decide to do something unorthodox. Don't cave if someone puts pressure on you. Follow your own path. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be surprised by some of the unavoidable changes that take place in your personal life or with regard to your home. Be prepared to negotiate and talk your way through whatever or whoever challenges you. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go over your financial statements, bills and investments. There is money to be saved

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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or made by double-checking everything. A serious decision can be made that will alter your financial situation forever. Negotiate a better deal from a strong and well-informed position. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have to rethink your strategy regarding personal matters. Someone may try to lead you to believe that things have changed or that something is being offered that actually is not. Get the facts, ask questions and don't make promises based on hearsay. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Follow the more conservative route, even if it doesn't excite you. Security is what you must strive for, especially when your economic situation is in jeopardy. Don't gossip or divulge secrets. ***

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, open and curious. You are an advocate for reform and fair play. You will always strive to do your very best.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		3		2	4	9		
					8			
6			5					1
9	3			5		4		
2								9
		6		4			5	7
1					2			6
			7					
		4	6	9		3		

Difficulty Level ★★

4/07

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMITS Solution: 8 letters

S	D	N	A	R	R	E	S	N	E	C	I	L	F	T
T	I	I	Y	F	I	L	A	U	Q	L	D	R	R	S
N	N	T	S	L	B	U	S	E	S	A	E	A	G	E
E	F	I	P	P	T	I	M	E	E	N	A	X	R	
M	O	S	A	R	L	P	V	B	E	S	T	P	I	T
R	R	S	E	P	H	A	A	E	P	M	I	A	H	S
I	M	U	T	O	R	T	Y	O	H	R	F	G	P	U
A	A	E	A	U	S	I	R	B	E	I	I	A	Y	T
P	T	R	T	W	D	T	N	A	Y	R	C	P	L	A
M	I	O	I	R	A	E	S	T	R	E	A	L	R	T
I	O	T	L	T	U	L	N	E	A	C	T	A	E	S
N	N	C	I	E	I	C	K	T	T	A	I	T	D	T
G	L	O	C	R	I	T	K	I	O	N	O	E	L	O
I	N	D	A	M	O	N	L	I	N	E	N	Y	E	C
S	E	E	F	E	D	E	R	A	L	G	N	A	H	K

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Apply, Arthritis, Best, Buses, Cane, Display, Doctor, Elderly, Emit, Errands, Expire, Facilitate, Fair, Federal, Fees, Free, Hang, Identification, Impairments, Information, Issue, License, Notary, Online, Pain, Plate, Print, Qualify, Right, Seal, Sign, Space, Status, Stock, Student, Tags, Term, Tests, Transportation, Truck, Vehicle, Walking

Yesterday's Answer: Nautical

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Heels, Spartans find themselves in more than game



DETROIT
(AP)—The bracket says North Carolina

vs. Michigan State.

At times, though, the Tar Heels may feel like they're going up against something more than just another basketball team.

From the coach on down, the Spartans (31-6) know a win in the NCAA title game on a court 90 miles from their campus won't fix the state's economic freefall, won't put anybody back to work. But there will be 72,000 people in Ford Field, site of the Final Four, come Monday night. Most will be rooting for Michigan State.

And winning, as they say, can be contagious.

"When you go through hard times, you pray for something to get you out," Spartans guard Travis Walton said. "I'm sure they didn't pray for Michigan State to get to the Final Four or the national championship game, but they probably have been praying to have things to take their mind off of it."

Michigan ranks 51st out of 50 states (and District of Columbia) in the latest unemployment figures. Detroit is the hub of an auto industry on life support, a civic symbol of an economic system that has come off the tracks.

That's the backdrop for a game in which Michigan State finds itself a 7 1/2-point underdog against a Carolina team that has "national champs" practically inked across its uniforms.

Remember, this is the team that some thought could go undefeated this season when Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington and Danny Green all decided to return after a bad loss to Kansas at last year's Final Four.

Undefeated was never on coach Roy Williams' list of



North Carolina head coach Roy Williams, left, and Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo chat before a television interview at the men's Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Sunday, April 5, 2009, in Detroit. M

goals. Winning a championship, though? Always.

"If you thought it was easy, you don't know what you're talking about," Williams said. "It's college basketball. There hasn't been an undefeated team since '76, and there have been some really, really good teams. I think this year there were eight or 10 teams or 12, I haven't studied it, that could be playing Monday night."

But it will be North Carolina (33-4), the preseason No. 1 and top seed in the South Regional, against Michigan State, a less-hyped and more overlooked No.

2 seed out of the Midwest.

Though Michigan State coach Tom Izzo won't sell his team short—"you don't get this far on grit," he said—he also knows the deal. This is a rematch of a game North Carolina won 98-63 on Dec. 3 in the same building. Anyone who turned the channel, or turned the page, on that one gets a pass. Izzo certainly has.

Michigan State was exhausted (fourth game in seven nights), injured (Goran Suton was out and Delvon Roe was hurting) and not playing near its current level back then, though

the coach figures if the Spartans had been in better shape, they still would have lost by 20.

"If we play good and they play good, we're losing. That's the way I look at it," Izzo said. "I mean, I don't look at that in the negative. They are the best team in the country and have earned that ranking probably over the last year and a half."

And, as both coaches acknowledge, the Spartans have a knack for taking opponents out of their 'A' game. See Michigan State's 82-73 win over Connecticut on Saturday.

"I mean, they're not exactly

Charlie's Donut Team," Williams said.

Williams figures if North Carolina plays poorly in the rematch, it won't be because of the crowd.

This is a team that loves playing in hostile environments and succeeds at it, too.

The Tar Heels have gone 67-14 away from home in the four years since Hansbrough and the seniors arrived in 2005, the season after Carolina's last championship. Hansbrough has never lost to Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium. He's 5-2 in other road games in the state of North Car-

olina, 3-0 in Maui, 6-0 in Florida and, yes, 1-0 at Ford Field.

"I've tried to forget that whole week," Izzo said. "In fact, if you ask me, 2008 never happened. I'm trying to move ahead to 2009."

Led by Kalin Lucas, the Big Ten player of the year, Walton, the Big Ten defensive player of the year, and steadily improving Raymar Morgan (18 points, nine rebounds in the win over Connecticut on Saturday), the Spartans are trying to close out 2009 with a flourish.

The game comes 30 years after Magic Johnson led MSU to its first championship in that historic meeting against Indiana State and Larry Bird. Like North Carolina, Michigan State is also going for its second title of the 2000s.

Mateen Cleaves led the 2000 title team. Though Izzo has been back to the Final Four three times since—for a total of five in 11 years—the Spartans haven't won another championship.

Getting this group a title is the real mission that concerns the coach.

"I mean, the state, this city, is very important to me," he said. "But the cause right now is for the Michigan State players to win a championship, and hopefully the repercussions from that will help a lot of people. It's a feel-good for a lot of people."

Williams, meanwhile, said he hasn't had time to discuss the country's economic situation since the Tar Heels beat Villanova 83-69 late Saturday night. It's simply not part of the scouting report.

"I do realize they have a cause. Well, we also have a cause, too," he said. "We want to win a national championship, period, the end. And if you would tell me that if Michigan State wins, it's gonna satisfy the nation's economy, then I'd say, 'Hell, let's stay poor for a little while longer.'"

HUMBLE, Texas (AP)—Paul Casey won the Shell Houston Open on Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory, beating J.B. Holmes with a bogey on the first playoff hole.

The 31-year-old Englishman has nine international victories, but had never won in the United States. The victory boosted Casey to No. 6 in the world rankings, a career high.

Holmes needed a win to earn a trip to next week's Masters, but is the only player from last year's Ryder Cup who failed to qualify.

Casey bogeyed the 18th hole in regulation to complete a 72 and tie Holmes at 11-under par. Holmes wrapped up a 69 almost three hours before Casey finished.

The players met on the tee of the 488-yard 18th hole, the most difficult hole of the tournament with an average score of 4.336.

Casey earns first US win in Houston

Holmes hooked his tee shot into the pond that lines the hole up to the elevated green. Casey then drove into the fairway bunker on the right side and hit a safe layup to the front of the green.

Holmes reached the green with his fourth shot, then missed a long bogey putt. Casey two-putted from 27 feet to secure the win.

Wind gusts topped 30 mph on Sunday and blew straight into the players' faces on the 18th hole. As Holmes putted on the practice green, Casey hit his 214-yard approach into the greenside bunker.

Casey blasted his sand shot to the bottom tier of the green and two-putted from 36 feet to force the first playoff in Houston since 2005.

Fred Couples, seeking his

first victory since winning the 2003 Houston Open, led for most of the final round before bogeys on his final three holes left him at 9-under par, tied with Henrik Stenson and Nick O'Hern in third place.

Couples and Casey were among six players tied at 11 under when the third round ended Sunday morning. Tour officials said it was the largest logjam at the top after 54 holes since at least 1970, when the statistic was first kept. Bo Van Pelt, Colt Knost and Ryan Moore were also part of the tie, but none of them broke par under the windy conditions Sunday.

Couples birdied the par-5 fourth hole to take the outright lead at 12 under.

Holmes sank birdie putts on the first three holes on the back nine before finding the bunker on the par-3 14th for a bogey. He reached the par-5 15th in two and two-putted to move to 11 under.

"I never thought I was out of it," said Holmes. "It just takes a couple of birdies."

Holmes hit his approach to No. 18 into the greenside sand trap, blasted out and sank a bending 14-footer to save par.

"It's a very intimidating tee shot," Holmes said. "After you hit that, the next shot is just as hard, if not harder. If you do bail out, you've got the bunker shot I had. It's not easy."

Casey sank a 10-footer for birdie on No. 12, then pitched

to 2 feet on the par-5 13th to tie Couples for the lead. Couples then pulled a 6-foot par putt on 16 and hit the greenside bunker on 17 to start his slide.

The tournament finished in daylight after organizers spent the weekend playing catch-up after high winds suspended the first round on Thursday afternoon.

To save time, third-round threesomes were not reshuffled for the final 18. The leaders teed off again about 90 minutes after finishing their third rounds on Sunday morning.

"It's been a long week," Holmes said. "I feel like this is the sixth or seventh round. It's just been a difficult week, the way everything worked out."

Casey earned himself some extra rest on Friday when he sprinted from the 17th green



to the 18th tee and hit his drive just before play was officially suspended. He played only eight holes on Saturday, then finished a 69 on Sunday morning to begin the final round tied for the lead.

Casey is the first European player to win the Houston Open, but the sixth international winner since 2002. He was one of 37 players who came to Houston to tune up for next week's Masters, taking advantage of an Augusta-like setup at Redstone's Tournament Course.

Greg Norman is also heading to the Masters after fading to an 81 on Sunday. He took a quadruple bogey on the 18th hole, dunking two approach shots into the pond. Sergio Garcia also found the water with his tee shot on 18 and took a triple bogey. He matched Norman's 81 to finish 7 over for the tournament.

Kidd dishes Mavs past Suns in crucial West matchup



DALLAS (AP)—About the only thing that went wrong for Jason Kidd on Sunday was failing to grab enough rebounds for a triple-double.

"Unfortunately," he said with a sly smile, "my teammates were making them."

Kidd had 19 points, a season-high 20 assists and a major career milestone—all in just three quarters—while leading Dallas to a 140-116 victory over Phoenix that virtually assures the Mavericks of a playoff spot and just as surely guarantees the Suns won't make the postseason.

Dallas owns a four-game lead with five games left. Because the Mavs hold the tiebreaker over the Suns, Phoenix must finish 5-0 and Dallas 0-5 for the teams to trade places in the standings.

Put another way, any Mavs win or Suns loss clinches a ninth straight postseason trip for Dallas and ends a streak of four straight for Phoenix.

"We're not holding our breath," Suns guard Steve Nash said.

Now Dallas can get on with what players have been saying is their primary goal: moving up to the seventh spot to avoid a first-round matchup against Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers. They'll get a great chance in their next game, when Utah, currently seeded seventh, visits Wednesday night, then face a stiff challenge with a home-and-home series against New Orleans.

"It should be a fun week," said Dirk Nowitzki, who scored 28 points.

Had the Suns won, the Mavs would've had only a two-game lead and a worrisome slump, while Phoenix would've been on a nice roll and had the advantage of an easier schedule the rest of the way. Now, the Suns might as well get started on off-season decisions like what to do with Amare Stoudemire and interim coach Alvin Gentry.

Managing partner Robert Sarver probably ran through a few scenarios after seeing his team get outscored 24-3 after getting within 46-45 midway through the second quarter.

With Kidd hitting outside shots, using his size to dominate Phoenix's smaller guards and, of course, setting up teammates for open jumpers, Dallas followed a 39-point first quarter with 42 points in the second for a whopping 81 by halftime. The Mavs capped it in style, too, with Josh Howard making a 71-footer as the second quarter ended. It was Dallas' 10th 3-pointer in 13 tries.

This crucial game was a laughter by halftime. Phoenix had no answer after the break, either, with its spirit broken by a possession that saw Nash have a shot blocked by Howard, then Grant Hill get a shot blocked by Nowitzki, followed by Nowitzki throwing a long outlet pass to the hardly mobile Erick Dampier for a breakaway dunk.

"I don't have any explana-

tion," Gentry said. "I really don't. Not in a million years would I have thought we'd come out and play that way in a game of that significance."

Said Hill: "I thought it was going to be a hard-fought game. I thought we'd fight and compete. Boy, was I wrong."

Dallas came in having lost three of five, including an ugly performance in Memphis on Friday night. Instead of another clunker, the Mavs piled up their most points, assists, 3-pointers and all sorts of other statistical feats. Kidd set team records for first-half assists (16) and assists in a regulation game, plus passed Magic Johnson for No. 3 on the career assists list.

"Jason Kidd has an iron will," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "Some of the stuff that he was inventing out there offensively for us was just phenomenal. It kept giving our team more and more confidence and we rode the wave."

Kidd was a point shy of the second 20-20 game of his career, but begged out late in the third quarter. He also was five shy of his career-best assist total, set as a rookie with Dallas. And, to Kidd's chagrin, he only had four rebounds.

Nowitzki made 10 of 12 shots to crack 20 points for the 20th straight game. Howard had 24 points after missing the Memphis game with a flare-up of his pesky ankle problem. Having two days off before facing the Jazz should help him remain in the lineup.

"The lift he gives us just by being on the court, it's hard to quantify," Carlisle said. "It brings a bounce to our team and it juices up our fans."

Jason Terry hit his first four 3-point tries and scored 18 points. Brandon Bass added 14 points and J.J. Barea had 12.

Shaquille O'Neal dominated in the early minutes for Phoenix, scoring points and drawing fouls at will. But once it turned it a track race between jump shooters, his presence was muted. He finished with 14 points and seven rebounds in 28 minutes.

Hill and Leandro Barbosa propped up the Suns' offense when things were close, with Hill hitting his first six shots and Barbosa starting 5-of-6. Hill finished with 23 points and Barbosa 24. Nash had 12 points and eight rebounds in 27 minutes.

Cavaliers 101, Spurs 81

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 38 points, Mo Williams and Delonte West added 22 apiece and the NBA's best home team avoided its first three-game losing streak.

Embarrassed in a 29-point loss in Orlando, a humbling defeat that came one day after a humiliating loss at lowly Washington, Cleveland played with purpose at both ends and improved to 37-1 at home. If they can win their final three home

games, the Cavs would match the 1985-86 Boston Celtics (40-1) for the best home record in NBA history.

Tony Parker scored 24 for San Antonio but got no help from Manu Ginobili (four points) or Tim Duncan, who had just six and didn't score after the 2:56 mark of the first quarter.

Pistons 104, Bobcats 97

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Will Bynum scored a franchise-

Knicks saw their postseason hopes end with a 102-95 home loss to the Raptors.

New York's victory snapped a nine-game losing streak in Toronto. The Knicks had not won north of the border since March 5, 2004. Quentin Richardson added 16 points for the Knicks, who snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time in six tries on the road.

Chris Bosh had 31 points and 14 rebounds for Toronto, whose season-high six-game winning

the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Nuggets extended their lead to two games over San Antonio for the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference after the Spurs lost to Cleveland earlier in the day.

Sebastian Telfair had 18 points to lead the Wolves, who played without four of their top six scorers.

Rockets 102, Trail Blazers 88

At Houston, Yao Ming had 21

by getting double figures from seven players.

New Jersey and Detroit each have five games left. New Jersey will miss the postseason for the second straight year if it loses one or the Pistons win one.

Sixth man Lou Williams had 14 points to lead the Sixers, who looked drained a day after beating Detroit to clinch a second straight playoff berth.

Pacers 117, Thunder 99

At Oklahoma City, Danny Granger scored 24 points, Troy Murphy added 22 points and nine rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers kept their slim playoff hopes alive.

Indiana shot 50 percent or better for the fifth time in seven games and put the game away by outscoring Oklahoma City 33-19 in the third quarter.

Roy Hibbert added 17 points, Jarrett Jack scored 14 and Brandon Rush had 13 points for Indiana, which trails both Chicago and Detroit by four games with five to play.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 25 points and Nick Collison scored 15. Rookie D.J. White added 14 points in his NBA debut after missing the first five months of the season following jaw surgery.

Warriors 105, Kings 100

At Sacramento, Calif., Kelenna Azubuike had 30 points and a career-high 15 rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors hung on to beat the Sacramento Kings with just seven healthy players.

Jamal Crawford had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors in their third straight victory, including two wins in five days over their closest geographical rivals.

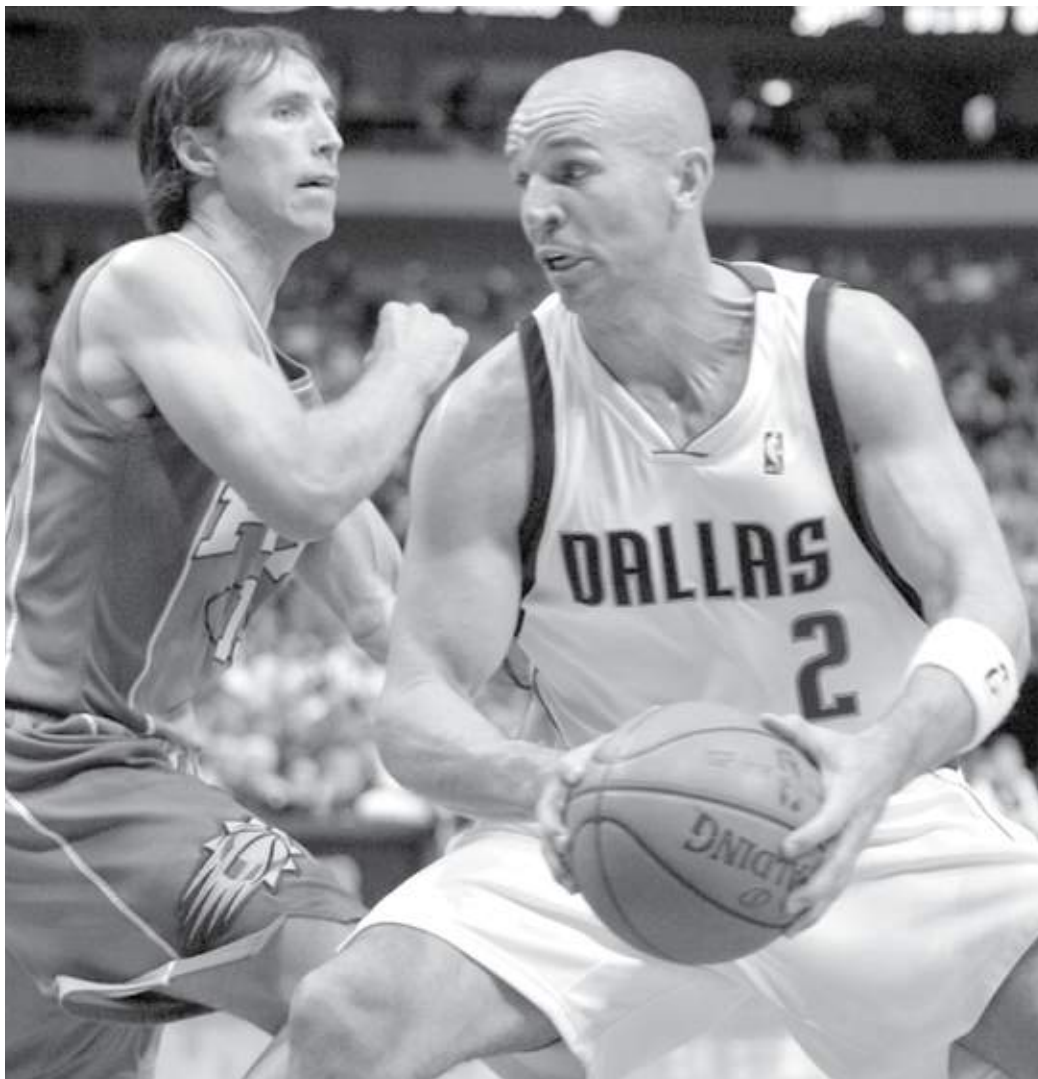
With Monta Ellis added to a long list of injured players due to a sore ankle, Golden State dressed injured center Andris Biedrins just to have the NBA-minimum eight players in uniform. Although Sacramento trimmed Golden State's 15-point lead with 5 minutes left to 100-97 with 1:10 to play, Crawford and C.J. Watson combined to hit five free throws in the final 25 seconds.

Lakers 88, Clippers 85

At Los Angeles, Lamar Odom had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Kobe Bryant added 18 points and the Los Angeles Lakers edged the Clippers to remain a game behind Cleveland for the NBA's best record.

The Lakers' 61st victory was listless against a team that trails them by 43 games in the Western Conference. But they did just enough to win their third in a row, improve to 33-5 at home and assert themselves as the dominant tenant at Staples Center.

Eric Gordon scored 24 points for the Clippers, who've lost five in a row and 12 of their last 15.



Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives past Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash in the first half of their NBA basketball game in Dallas, Sunday, April 5, 2009.

record 26 points in the fourth quarter to lead Detroit past the Charlotte Bobcats and putting the Pistons a step closer to locking up the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Bynum scored the final 13 points for the Pistons and finished with a career-high 32 points, and also had seven assists. He made all six of his field-goal attempts and went 14-for-16 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter.

The win was the third for Detroit in four meetings with Charlotte this season and leaves the Pistons three games ahead of the Bobcats with five games remaining.

D.J. Augustin led Charlotte with 22 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter.

Knicks 112, Raptors 103

At Toronto, Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, David Lee added 16 points and 10 rebounds and the New York Knicks beat the Raptors, eliminating Toronto from the playoffs.

It came one day after the

streak came to an end.

Jazz 108, Hornets 94

At New Orleans, Ronnie Brewer scored 23 points and the Utah Jazz clinched a playoff spot after completing a convincing season sweep of the New Orleans Hornets.

Deron Williams had 21 points and 11 assists for Utah, which led by 30 in the second quarter and snapped a three-game skid with its first road victory against a winning team in the Western Conference this season.

David West had 23 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, which could have clinched a playoff spot with a victory, but instead lost its second straight game. Chris Paul had 19 points and 12 assists for the Hornets, who lost all three games against Utah this season by double-digit margins.

Nuggets 110, Timberwolves 87

At Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points and the Denver Nuggets easily won their seventh in a row, beating

points and 12 rebounds to lead Houston past Portland, just hours after the Trail Blazers got their first playoff berth since 2003 when Dallas beat Phoenix 140-116.

With their playoff spot assured, the Trail Blazers didn't lead after early in the first quarter, but wouldn't go away. They made a run each time Houston got a comfortable lead until the Rockets finally put it away in the fourth quarter.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and nine rebounds for Portland.

Nets 96, 76ers 67

At East Rutherford, N.J., Vince Carter scored 15 points and the New Jersey Nets kept their playoff hopes alive for a couple more days by handing the Philadelphia 76ers their worst loss of the season.

The Nets (32-45) were pushed to the brink of elimination while their game was being contested when the Detroit Pistons (37-40) beat the Charlotte Hornets 104-97, but they stayed mathematically alive

Ol'Aces topple Aztecs, Hustlers snap losing skid

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Ol'Aces toppled Aztecs, 17-5, last Tuesday night and seized the solo lead in the Big League Division of the 2009 SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Shortstop Juan Iguel went 5-for-5 with four runs and two RBIs. Ryan Lisua Jr. had three runs and an RBI after going 4-for-5 at the plate.

Jimmy Brel Jr. gave up 13 hits, allowed two walks, and hit a batter but struck out three in five innings to help Ol'Aces to its third straight win and fourth in five games.

In the fifth, the first three batters of

Team Aztecs got the better of Brel, as Tim Cruz hit a two-run single sending Nicko Martin and Nick Muna home and Cruz followed suit on a passed ball.

After that, Brel struck out the next two batters, Nick Cruz and Franklin Togawa, then walked Ben Taisacan before retiring John Welson on a flyout to first as Ol'Aces remained in control, ahead 12-5.

Team Aztecs sent its second reliever Nick Cruz in the bottom of the fifth and Ol'Aces, as if on cue, connected on five hits with one advancing to first base on a base on ball, as the team padded its lead with five more runs from Leo Galarce, Ken Villagomez, Mike Borja, Mario Salas, and Iguel.

Ryan Lisua Jr. relieved Brel in the bottom of the sixth and completed the win for Ol'Aces on a 1-3 play off Wally Emul,

a fly out to first against Togawa, and another fly out to shortstop off Martin.

Aztecs suffered its second straight loss and slipped to fifth place with a 2-3 win-loss slate.

Hustlers 3, Fielders 1

Hustlers struggled against relentless IT&E Fielders before pulling out a 3-1 victory in a defense-oriented game up Wednesday night.

The win snapped a two-game losing skid by the Hustlers, who are now tied with the D-9ers in third with similar 2-2 records.

The Fielders fell to 1-4 in the bottom of the standings.

Martin Kaipat scored the first run of the game after he tripled with one out in the bottom third and reached home

via Giovanni Ayuyu's double.

Anthony Tenorio tied the count in the top of the fourth. He was hit by a pitch to reach first, advanced to second on a single by Wensimer Namelo, stole third base via passed ball, and reached home on another passed ball.

The Hustlers scored two in the top of the fifth as Vincent Cepeda doubled and went to third on Ayuyu's triple. He latter dashed crossed home plate on a passed ball.

Ayuyu, who struck out 10 batters and gave up only four hits, was rested with two outs in the top of the seventh because he already eclipsed the pitching limit of 105. He pitched a total of 108 after John Tudela's single.

His reliever Ton Rogolifo insured the win via a 6-3 play off Tenorio.

GUAM

From Page 28

Dunn Dunlop and Nicky Nichols.

Eight other pairs joined Tenai and Smith in receiving top prizes during the brief awards ceremony hosted by PIC's Lindsey Sosovec.

Veterans Eli Buenaventura and Roy Pangelinan ruled the eight-team men's 4.0, beating the team of Dunlop and Nichols in the finals, 6-4, 7-6 (12-10). Dunlop and Nichols won in the semi-finals over Reo Arriola and Nanding

Cajigan, 6-4, 6-4, while Buenaventura and Pangelinan topped Muna Gurung and Tosiba Beltau in the other semis match, 6-2, 6-4.

In the men's 4.0 finals, the tandem of Jorge Olanda and Mario Buensuceso prevailed over the duo of Ryan Cho and Edward Amia, 6-2, 6-2. Buensuceso and Olanda downed Ed Ramangmou and Sathiyar Kalarikkal in the semis, 6-1, 6-4, to set up a title match against Amia and Cho, who defeated J.R. Ngeskebei and Rodel Macasinag, 7-5, 6-3.

In the round-robin women's open doubles, Cleofe Santos and junior play-

er Thea Minor won over Lydia Tan and Sally Wong, 6-1, 6-0.

The mixed open doubles title went to the pair of Race and Wong, who thwarted Tan and Loyola in the finals, 6-4, 6-2. Race and Wong topped Thea Minor and Lope Padilla in the semis, 6-3, 6-4, while Loyola and Tan won over Kirk and Carrie Schuler, 6-2, 6-3.

In the mixed 4.0 finals, the husband-and-wife tandem of Eun Kyoung and Dong Min Lee out-classed the pair of Tishia Sonota and Jonathan Frasco, 6-4, 7-5.

In the juniors division, Daniel Park

and Christian Miller reigned in the boys' 14-and-under category after wall-opping Nathan Nutting and Chris Cajigan in the finals, 6-4, 6-4.

In the girls' 14-and-under finals, Thee-cel Minor and Melody Johnson won over Amy Arenovski and Neghar Rastguiry, 6-0, 6-3. Arenovski and Rastguiry did not go home empty-handed, as they topped the girls' 10-and-under division after downing Gabrielle Race and Tammy Ackerman in the finals, 6-0, 6-0.

In the boys' 10-and-under finals, Carl Dela Cruz and Colin Ramsey prevailed over Clayton Izuka and Alex Park, 8-1.

OLEAI

From Page 28

tary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Tanapag defeated Kagman, 16-7, in the battle for third.

All six teams went through a single-round robin elimination format.

Organizers added all the scores of each team in its five games of the elimination and the top two teams—

Oleai (52 points) and San Vicente (48 points)—automatically advanced to the finals. No. 3 Kagman (46 points) and No. 4 Tanapag (42 points) played for third place.

Oleai won its first three games against Kagman (7-6), WSR (8-2), and GTC (21-1), but lost its last two games to San Vicente (4-9) and Tanapag (12-15).

San Vicente also won three against Tanapag (9-5), GTC (12-8), and Oleai (9-4), but lost two games to Kagman

(14-15) and WSR (4-15).

Kagman had the best record at 4-1, losing only once in its first game against Oleai (6-7) and won its next four games over Tanapag (9-7), San Vicente (15-14), WSR (5-3), and GTC (11-7).

Overall tournament coordinator Sam Joyner said the purpose of the one-day event is to assist in the mission of developing student athletes into future leaders through the basketball program.

"Our athletic program teaches life's most important lessons to our

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Tour, the XTERRA Saipan Championship will offer competitors of all levels a challenging course on April 18 highlighting Saipan's lush jungles, Japanese caves, and war relics from World War II.

The Tagaman Triathlon on April 25 will give competitors an opportunity to see the most of Saipan. The 2-kilometer swim starts at Pacific Islands Club Saipan in the south, with the 60-km bike taking competitors all the way north to Bird Island. The 15-km run starts and finishes at Micro Beach.

"The Northern Marianas Islands are a tropical island paradise, and this annual sports fest gives us an excellent opportunity to share that beauty with a broad international audience," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We're looking forward to another round of strong competition and memorable moments this year."

This year's events include:

April 17: Tank to Tank Swim, XTERRA Sunset Scramble 5k/10k and awards ceremony, XTERRA Saipan Welcome Reception;

April 18: XTERRA Saipan Championship, XTERRA Sport, XTERRA

Kids Bike Race, XTERRA Saipan Championship Awards Ceremony and Awards Dinner;

April 19: XTERRA Saipan Championship Beach Barbecue;

April 20: Bike Tour of Marpi;

April 21: Pro Bike Clinic;

April 22: Tank to Tank Swim, Hash Run; and

April 25: 20th Annual Tagaman Triathlon.

XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman defending champions Andrew Noble and Renata Bucher have confirmed that they will return to defend their PIC Double titles. Julie

DIAMOND

From Page 28

Law Office, which downed the Runnin' Rebels in the second match, 104-95.

Diamond Auto Care is unbeaten in three games in the playoff round and was aiming for the first finals ticket against Docomo Pacific last night. The Docomo-Diamond tiff was played at 8pm last night, but results were unavailable at press time.

Quichocho earned its first win in the playoffs after losing to Ol'Aces on April 1. Runnin' Rebels were booted out of the tournament after dropping their first two games in the playoffs.

Quichocho was playing IT&E in the first game last night with the loser joining Runnin' Rebels in the show-

ers and the winner advancing against the CNMI Nationals.

Ol'Aces missed Freddie Pelisamen, giving Diamond Care less worries on defense.

Elias Rangamar tried to fill the void left by Pelisamen on Ol'Aces' offense and had little success, as his team kept pace with Diamond Care in the first half.

The first half ended at 43-all before the Auto Fixers seized control of the match in the third canto, which had Diamond ahead, 65-59.

Ol'Aces never recovered from thereon, as Rangamar had only two teammates helping him mount a comeback in the payoff quarter.

Bruce Berline and Pando Muleta paced Diamond with 18 points apiece, while Elmer Esdrelon and Errol Peredo chipped in 14 and 12 markers, respectively.

Rangamar led all scorers with 26 points, while Junior Renguul had 12, but was scoreless in the second half. Romeo Iginoef finished with 11 points, but had only two field goals in the final 20 minutes of the match.

In the second game, Bonbon Cadagat exploded for 43 points to keep Quichocho's finals bid alive.

Cadagat led Quichocho's break-away in the second half, canning consecutive triples. He finished with nine triples in the game.

Darwin Barbo took care of business in the shaded lane and added 20 markers.

Quichocho led by as much as 20 points in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, 89-69, before it slowed down, allowing the Runnin' Rebels to have a decent finish in the seven-team league.

First Game

Diamond Auto Care 89 – Berline 18, Muleta 18, Esdrelon 14, Peredo 12, Talania 4, Guiab 4, Brostom 4, Joyner 3, Camacho 2, Capalad 2.

Ol'Aces 76 – E. Rangamar 26, Renguul 12, Iginoef 11, P. Camacho 10, White 8, Olaitiman 4.

Scoring by quarters: 25-all, 43-all, 65-59, 89-76.

Second Game

Quichocho 104 – Cadagat 43, Barbo 20, Mendoza 8, Moises 7, Lerio 6, Itaas 5, Palero 4, Tagle 3, Jutos 2.

Runnin' Rebels 95 – Tumaquip 18, Iguel 16, Norita 15, Coldeen 5, Ogomoro 5, Kenty 2, Taisacan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-21, 54-32, 79-66, 104-95.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	58	19	.753	–
x-Philadelphia	40	36	.526	17 1/2
New Jersey	32	45	.416	26
Toronto	30	46	.395	27 1/2
New York	30	47	.390	28

Central Division

y-Cleveland	62	15	.805	–
Chicago	37	40	.481	25
Detroit	37	40	.481	25
Indiana	33	44	.429	29
Milwaukee	32	46	.410	30 1/2

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	57	19	.750	–
x-Atlanta	43	34	.558	14 1/2
x-Miami	41	36	.532	16 1/2
Charlotte	34	43	.442	23 1/2
Washington	18	60	.231	40

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	49	27	.645	–
x-Houston	49	28	.636	0 1/2
New Orleans	47	29	.618	2
Dallas	46	31	.597	3 1/2
Memphis	22	54	.289	27

Northwest Division

x-Denver	52	26	.667	–
x-Portland	48	28	.632	3/2
Utah	47	30	.610	4 1/2
Minnesota	22	55	.286	29 1/2
Oklahoma City	21	55	.276	30

Pacific Division

z-LA Lakers	61	16	.792	–
Phoenix	42	35	.545	19
Golden State	28	49	.364	33
LA Clippers	18	59	.234	43
Sacramento	16	60	.211	44 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 140, Phoenix 116
Cleveland 101, San Antonio 81
Detroit 104, Charlotte 97
New York 112, Toronto 103
Utah 108, New Orleans 94
Denver 110, Minnesota 87
Houston 102, Portland 88
New Jersey 96, Philadelphia 67
Indiana 117, Oklahoma City 99
Golden State 105, Sacramento 100
LA Lakers 88, LA Clippers 85

x-Clinched playoff spot
y-Division champ
z-Clinched home court

SHELL HOUSTON OPEN SCORES

FINAL ROUND

x-Paul Casey	66	70	69	72	277
J.B. Holmes	71	69	68	69	277
Fred Couples	68	69	68	74	279
Nick O'Hern	72	71	66	70	279
Henrik Stenson	70	67	72	70	279
Tommy Armour III	66	70	72	72	280
Jason Bohn	69	71	66	74	280
Hunter Mahan	71	69	72	68	280
John Mallinger	75	65	70	70	280
Geoff Ogilvy	67	69	69	75	280
Ryan Moore	70	68	67	76	281
Nicholas Thompson	65	75	71	70	281
Lee Westwood	69	70	68	74	281
Jonathan Byrd	67	70	70	75	282
Brian Davis	71	69	68	74	282
Ernie Els	75	66	71	70	282
Robert Karlsson	70	71	66	75	282
D.A. Points	66	72	72	72	282
Justin Leonard	68	70	69	76	283
Steve Marino	69	73	71	70	283
Rory McIlroy	67	73	74	69	283
Kevin Na	73	68	70	72	283
Ryan Palmer	70	72	72	69	283
Kevin Sutherland	69	71	68	75	283
Bo Van Pelt	70	67	68	78	283
Brian Gay	69	73	68	74	284
Padraig Harrington	72	67	68	77	284
Anthony Kim	72	68	70	74	284
Shaun Micheel	71	72	68	73	284
Ted Purdy	71	69	73	71	284
Stuart Appleby	70	68	71	76	285
Bart Bryant	71	72	69	73	285
Ben Curtis	70	72	71	72	285
Lucas Glover	74	68	66	77	285
Dudley Hart	68	72	73	72	285
Brandt Jobe	73	69	69	74	285
Jarrod Lyle	71	68	71	75	285
John Merrick	71	72	68	74	285
John Senden	65	71	71	78	285
Chris Stroud	68	75	71	71	285
Scott Verplank	68	70	71	76	285
J.J. Henry	72	71	70	73	286
Martin Kaymer	71	70	70	75	286
Colt Knost	66	70	69	81	286
Marc Leishman	68	73	71	74	286
Michael Letzig	71	71	69	75	286
Scott Piercy	66	71	69	80	286
Camilo Villegas	69	72	72	73	286
Chad Campbell	72	71	72	72	287
John Huston	72	70	70	75	287
Vaughn Taylor	67	72	71	77	287
Charley Hoffman	71	72	69	76	288
Peter Lonard	73	69	68	78	288
Davis Love III	73	69	72	74	288
John Rollins	68	73	72	75	288
Justin Rose	68	74	73	73	288
Webb Simpson	71	71	71	75	288
Briny Baird	65	73	71	80	289
Daniel Chopra	72	71	66	80	289
Steve Elkington	71	71	69	78	289
Paul Goydos	71	71	71	76	289
Charles Howell III	71	68	71	79	289
Heath Slocum	73	67	73	76	289
Alex Cejka	73	69	73	75	290
Robert Garrigus	71	68	73	78	290
Scott McCarron	68	73	72	77	290
Tom Pernice Jr.	70	72	71	77	290
Brendon Todd	71	71	69	79	290
Brendon de Jonge	73	69	71	77	290
Billy Mayfair	70	72	74	75	291
James Nitties	66	72	75	78	291
Greg Norman	71	69	70	81	291
Tim Wilkinson	68	75	75	73	291
Bob Estes	70	73	74	75	292
Kirk Triplett	72	69	74	77	292
David Berganio Jr.	68	73	72	81	294
Jason Dufner	68	73	75	79	295
Sergio Garcia	69	71	74	81	295
Mark Calcavecchia	69	73	81	40	263

x- won playoff

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BIG LEAGUE STANDINGS

Ol'Aces	4	1
Falcons	3	2
Hustlers	2	2
D-9ERS	2	2
Team Aztecs	2	3
IT&E Fielders	1	4

2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of third placer Inchcape pose for a group photo.



Players and supporters of champion team Dollar Days are joined by volunteers for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Volunteers in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League get their chance for a group photo.



Players of runner-up KFC/Taco Bell receive their trophy.



Dollar Days' Jun Pantaleon, left, and KFC/Taco Bell's Larry Palero battle for the loose ball during the deciding Game 3 of their title series.

Dollar Days' Wowie Abuel pulls up for a floater.



Dollar Days' Ivan De Vero goes up for a jumper.



KFC/Taco Bell's Mel Capalad drives against Dollar Days' Kae Bernardo

Dollar Days and KFC/Taco Bell players battle for possession.

Athlete's Foot players with their fourth place trophy.



Heels, Spartans find themselves in more than game



The bracket says North Carolina vs. Michigan State.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kidd dishes Mavs past Suns in crucial West matchup

About the only thing that went wrong for Jason Kidd on Sunday was failing to grab enough rebounds for a triple-double.

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28 TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guam netters top Saipan rivals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Guam-Saipan showdown in the men's open doubles division of the 9th Annual PIC/Gatorade Tennis Championships ended in favor of the visitors.

Guam's Lency Tenai and Torgun Smith outlasted Kirk Schuler and Peter Loyola in three sets of their title match in the men's open singles Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The former Davis Cupper and Guam Tennis Academy coach Tenai and Smith took the opening set, 6-1, before Schuler and Loyola found their rhythm in the second set and nailed a 6-1 triumph.

In the third set, Tenai, who is also Guam's national coach, and Smith raced to a 3-0 lead and never looked back, as they managed to break Schuler and Loyola's service.

The former Drake University standout Schuler and Loyola failed to keep their momentum in the deciding third set, as they were lost against Tenai's tricky ball placing.

Tenai and Smith, a co-founder of GTA, advanced to the title match after beating CNMI coach Jeff Race and former junior player Nicholas Son in the semis, 6-3, 6-3.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam Tennis Academy's Lency Tenai serves while teammate Torgun Smith looks on during their title match against Saipan's Kirk Schuler and Peter Loyola in the men's open doubles division of the PIC netfest Sunday at the PIC hard court.

Schuler and Loyola, a tennis instructor at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, claimed the second finals

ticket after outclassing Guam's Bill Camacho and Ben Dunn, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4. Camacho and Dun

moved into the semis after a 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 triumph over Saipan's

See GUAM on Page 26



MARK RABAGO

XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon defending champions Andrew Noble, left, and Renata Bucher have confirmed that they will return to defend their PIC Double titles in the 2009 editions of the races.

Saipan Sports Fest 2009 set to sizzle XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon Set



Saipan Sports Fest 2009 is set to sizzle from April 15 to 26 here in the CNMI.

The annual event, set in this tropical paradise in the western Pacific, is expected to attract competitors from around the world for the 8th XTERRA Saipan Championship and the 20th Annual Tagaman Triathlon.

The crown jewel of the XTERRA Global

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Diamond boosts finals bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Diamond Auto Care is a step away from advancing to the finals of the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after walloping Ol'Aces, 89-76, Friday night at the Garapan Bas-



ketball Court. Also cruising to an easy win at the Garapan court was Quichocho

See DIAMOND on Page 26

Oleai wins Interscholastic girls cage tiara



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the Oleai Elementary School team are all smiles after winning the girls championship of the 2009 Elementary School Interscholastic Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Oleai beat San Vicente Elementary School for the tiara.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Oleai Elementary School captured the girls championship of the 2009 Elementary School Interscholastic Basketball Tournament after beating San Vicente Elementary School, 13-7, in the finals last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win was sweet revenge for Oleai after losing to San Vicente in the elimination round.

A total of six teams participated in this second edition of the annual tournament. The other schools that fielded teams were Tanapag Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Kagman Elemen-

See OLEAI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Quichocho Law Office's Bonbon Cadagat, right, dribbles out of the defense of the Runnin' Rebels' Jose Tumaquip during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.